

## **ENQA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 Astana, 18–19 October 2018**

### **Biographies of the Speakers**



**Pieter Caris**

Pieter Caris is senior policy advisor at the Accreditation Organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). In September 2015, he was seconded to NVAO for the organisation and implementation of the pilot round of institutional reviews in Flanders and was involved in the development of the Appreciative Approach and the assessment methodologies for universities and university colleges. He actively contributes to the development of the new quality assurance system in Flanders, and co-authored the assessment frameworks that will be used in the period 2019-2025. He specialises in quality assurance at the institutional level, student-centred learning and flexibilisation. He is Secretary of the Sounding Board of the stakeholders of the higher education community in Flanders. Before he joined NVAO, he worked as a staff member in the Educational support office of the Faculty of science at KU Leuven (Belgium) and as Study programme advisor and coordinator of the Student administration office at the Faculty of science at the University of Antwerp (Belgium).



**Karl Dittrich**

Karl Dittrich started his career as lecturer at Leiden and Maastricht University. He became member of the Executive Board of Maastricht University and in 1994 became President of the Board. In 2002, he was involved in the start of the Dutch accreditation system and became Chairman of the Dutch Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO). In 2012, he became President of the Association of Dutch Universities (VSNU) and, after his retirement in 2017, became President of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR). He held numerous functions in national and international organisations and is currently member of the University Council of the University of York in England, and Chair of the Supervisory Board of Saxion University of Applied Science.



**Philip Duffus**

Professor Philip Duffus is currently Emeritus Professor at Bristol University. In his life, he has published over eighty publications and abstracts on immunology and cattle diseases. Currently, he is responsible for the detailed planning and following implementation of a radically new curriculum for the BVSc programme at Bristol with the introduction of directed self-learning (DSE) in all BVSc units. He champions the intercalation and vacation scholarship programme for the BVSc undergraduates, reaching the target of 25% of veterinary undergraduates intercalating in a wide range of honours BSc courses. He has personally supervised a wide range of PhD students both at Bristol as well as at Cambridge.



**Felicia Banu**

Felicia Banu is employed as a Senior specialist in the Higher education evaluation department. Her areas of expertise are the elaboration and development of standards and criteria in education as well as the development of quality assurance instruments for internal and external QA procedures. She has great didactic and managerial experience in the higher education sector. She has experience in external evaluation of the quality of study programs and higher education institutions and rich experience in teaching the courses for bachelor and master students. She has also more than 15 years of experience in international projects related to higher education reform and was involved in various research programs. She attended many national

and international conferences, and the results of her research were published in journals with over 30 articles.



**Eva Fernández de Labastida**

Dr. Eva Fernández de Labastida is the Internationalisation and projects manager of Unibasq – the Agency for Quality of the Basque University System (since 2009). At the beginning of her work for Unibasq, she was responsible for the coordination, organisation and implementation of the accreditation procedures and institutional audits in the universities of the Basque University System, including peer-trainings. She has participated in several institutional audits and study programmes accreditations as panel coordinator. In addition, she is currently in charge of the international activities of Unibasq, taking part in several working groups in different networks, such as ENQA and ECA, the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education, related to joint programmes, academic recognition and employability. Since June 2017, she had chaired the Working group on Mutual recognition and joint programmes of ECA and she is a member of the Board of ECA since June 2018.



**Varduhi Gyulazyan**

Dr. Varduhi Gyulazyan graduated from Yerevan State University of Linguistics and Social sciences and got a bachelor's degree in teaching English and German languages in 2009. She got her master's degree in Education Management at Armenian State University of Economics in 2011. Varduhi Gyulazyan graduated from Armenian State University with a PhD in Economics in 2016. Currently she is a Senior specialist at the Armenian National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance, Foundation (ANQA). She is actively involved in coordinating institutional and programme accreditation processes and the developments of ANQA since 2011. She also participated in various international and local workshops, seminars and conferences. Has been involved in the coordination of different international projects at the ANQA level.



**Stefan Handke**

Dr. Stefan Handke is Managing Director of the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN) in Germany and General Director of the ACQUIN branch KAZ-ACQUIN in Kazakhstan. Since 2012, he has worked in the field of quality assurance and he is a member of the CEENQA Executive Board. Before being active in QA, he worked as a political scientist at universities in Hagen and Hannover. At the University of Konstanz, he held an interim professorship (Chair of German Politics and Public Administration) during the winter term 2016/17. He holds a PhD in Public Policy.



**Esther Huertas**

Dr. Esther Huertas 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 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 Quality Assurance Department of the Agency. She is involved in different international activities and is currently the work package leader of Quality assurance in online higher education for the TeSLA project and the chair of ENQA's working group of e-learning.



**Lemka Izmaylova**

Dr. Lemka Izmaylova received her PhD in Pedagogy. She is the current director of the National Accreditation Agency (NAA) of Russian Federation, which is mandated by the Government to provide state accreditation procedure for about 1,500 HEIs, to contribute to the recognition of their academic achievements at the national and international levels, and to assure quality of higher education in 85 federal subjects of Russia. She has a great experience in the field of education, as she was the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Ingushetia (Russia). Her service has been acknowledged with awards such as “Minister of the Year – 2009.” She is also well known to the pedagogical community of Russia as the director of the first school for the deaf and hard of hearing children in the Republic of Ingushetia. She has been Director of NAA since September 2015 and has received numerous honours from the government and Head of Ingush Republic, from the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science (Rosobrnadzor), Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for high professionalism, and other working achievements.



**Sholpan Kalanova**

Professor Sholpan Kalanova, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences used to work in leadership positions at higher education institutions (as Vice-rector at Kyzylorda Institute of Engineers in Agricultural Production, Zhambyl State University, M.H. Dulati Taraz State University), at the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (as Deputy Director of the Department of State Inspection and Monitoring), in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (as Deputy Head of the Centre for Strategic Research and Analysis) and in the “Information-Analytic Center” of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (as President). She was president of the Eurasian Network for Quality Assurance in Education in CIS and Baltic countries (2004-2008), and member of Council for Public Education in the CIS countries (2002-2010). She is an international expert. She participated in development of the Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Science” (2011), “On Education” (2011, 2015, 2018), and “State Programme of Education Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011-2020” (2010). She also took part in the first review of Education in Kazakhstan conducted by OECD in 2012.



**Sandra Marcos**

Sandra Marcos studied Information Management at the University of Salamanca and received a master’s degree in Information Management at the Institute for Directors of Enterprises. Before joining ACSUCYL (Quality Assurance Agency for the University System in Castilla y León), she worked as Project manager in a private company and also as teacher of Spanish as a foreign language in Sheffield. In 2005, she joined ACSUCYL and has been working in the field of international affairs and internal quality system. She is involved in the design of external quality assurance procedures. She has been working in some ENQA working groups related to internal quality assurance since 2010 (IQA Steering Group; KP3 and ENQA IQA as a chair). She has been actively involved in the ENQA’s working group of e-learning and quality assurance. She is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the AR-NET project about automatic recognition on behalf of the European Consortium for Accreditation. Since March 2018, she has been an associate professor at UOC (Open University of Catalonia) in the Master of Quality and Management in HEIs.



**Karena Maguire**

Karena Maguire is currently Head of the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Division in QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland). This role includes the successful QQI Quality Enhancement Programme, system quality projects; managing national and internal stakeholder engagements and Internal and external communications. Previous positions held include Head of System Quality Assurance & Enhancement (Projects) and Head of Quality Assurance Services. Over the years, she has been responsible for developing and leading all types and models of accreditation, including system level evaluations of higher education and training. Models include programme validation, research accreditation, institutional level reviews, transnational evaluations, and strategic projects on system wide evaluations. She has been invited to participate in a range of international reviews of universities and HE colleges in Europe and the US. Strategic Engagement and value-added projects are a key strategic focus for QQI at present.



**Lilit Pipoyan**

Dr. Lilit Pipoyan graduated from Yerevan State University with a bachelor's and then master's degree in International Relations in 2012. She then graduated with a PhD in Economics from the Armenian State University of Economics in 2016. She is a specialist at the Institutional and Program Accreditation Division since 2012. She is actively involved in coordinating the international projects and managing grant implementation at ANQA level as well as in coordinating accreditation processes of tertiary level institutions and contributing the quality enhancement of VET providers.



**Kerstin Schörg**

Kerstin Schörg holds a master's degree in Finance and Controlling. After her graduation, she worked in the auditing sector for KPMG Vienna. From 2009 to 2015 she was employed at the University of Vienna, where she was responsible for study progress analyses and curriculum evaluations in order to assure the quality of existing and the development of new curricula. Since May 2015 she has been a Project manager at AQ Austria in the accreditation department. Her work at AQ Austria focuses on the coordination of institutional and program accreditation procedures with a particular focus on private universities in Austria and the supervision of accredited higher education institutions regarding accreditation requirements. She is also involved in national and international projects and workshops on external quality assurance. She is a member of the ENQA working group on quality assurance and e-learning. In addition to e-learning, her field of interest covers the implementation of ISO and EFQM in the context of higher education institutions.



**Georg Seppmann**

Georg Seppmann originally studied Social and Cultural Anthropology at Frankfurt University, where he first came into contact with new media in education through various student projects in the early 1990s. Later, at the German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) he was working on several certificate programmes for IT qualification. Before he joined evalag in 2014, he worked for 14 years in the development of e-learning programmes and concepts at different universities in Germany, most recently at the Bavarian Virtual University (vhb), a university network that offers more than 450 courses to students enrolled at Bavarian universities. At evalag, he has meanwhile carried out several national and international evaluation and accreditation projects. He is also part of the ERASMUS+ funded project E-TALEB where seven Lebanese universities, together with partners from France, Germany and UK, are developing a professional standards framework for excellence in teaching and learning for Lebanon. He is a member of ENQA's working group of e-learning.



**Sigurdur Oli  
Sigurdsson**

Dr. Sigurdur Oli Sigurdsson is the Manager of the Quality Board for Icelandic Higher Education, and has held that position since 2015. In that capacity, he provides Secretariat services to the Quality Board, which is a group of international experts appointed by the Minister of Education, Science and Culture established to design and implement a Quality Enhancement Framework in Iceland. He has been an administrator of grants at the Iceland Centre for Research, namely for the Icelandic Research Fund, which is the largest funding mechanism for research in Iceland, and for the Strategic Research Funding Programme in Language Technology. He has also served as Secretary for the Board of the Icelandic Research Fund. He received his doctoral degree from the Psychology Department of Western Michigan University in 2006, with an emphasis on the psychology of the workplace. He has nine years of prior experience as an academic staff member, and during that period held appointments at University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and Florida Institute of Technology. In that time, he served on both departmental and university-level committees for teaching and for research.



**Lineke van Bruggen**

Lineke van Bruggen is a senior Policy Advisor at NVAO (the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders). At present, she is the contact point for internationalisation in the Department of the Netherlands of the NVAO and in that capacity she is also involved in various international evaluations and networks. Before this position, she was involved in the evaluation of research masters and in the development of a framework for the assessment of the distinctive feature entrepreneurship. She previously worked in quality assurance of education and research in a quality assurance agency and for the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU). She also worked in two (research) universities in the Netherlands as a policy advisor and a researcher and was also a consultant in the field of development co-operation, mainly in Africa.

