

Note from the President

Bern, 5 November 2018

Dear colleagues,

It was a great pleasure to welcome many ENQA members and affiliates in Astana for the General Assembly last month. For those of you unable to attend, herein you may find a summary of the decisions taken at the event, as well as at recent Board meetings. Please be informed that minutes from the General Assembly and Board meetings, once approved, are available on the ENQA website in the [Members' Area](#).

1. General Assembly 2018

The General Assembly voted to fill five Board vacancies: three for ordinary three-year terms, and two to replace positions that became vacant in the course of Summer 2018 due to the resignation of two Board members. Christina Rozsnyai (HAC, Hungary) and Anne Flierman (NVAO, the Netherlands) were both re-elected for their second full three-year terms along with Øystein Lund (NOKUT, Norway) who was selected for his first full term of three years. Daniela Cristina Ghitulica (ARACIS, Romania) was voted for an initial two-year term and Stefan Handke (ACQUIN, Germany) for an initial one-year term. Caty Duykaerts (AEQES, Belgium) and Eva Ferreira García (Unibasq, Spain) were elected as Vice Presidents, and Anne Flierman was reappointed as Treasurer. I offer my warmest congratulations to all of them. On behalf of the continuing Board members, I would like to welcome our latest additions and sincerely thank Tove Blytt Holmen (NOKUT, Norway), Sofija Pekic Quarrie (CAQA, Serbia), and Nora Skaburskienė (SKVC, Lithuania) for serving on the Board so admirably.

Members present at the General Assembly endorsed the Board's earlier decisions to grant membership to the Academic Information Centre (AIC, Latvia), the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE, Austria), and the Netherlands Quality Agency (NQA, the Netherlands), and to reconfirm membership for the following four agencies: the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS, Romania), the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC, Hungary), the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT, Norway), and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA, United Kingdom). The reports and other materials relating to the reviews are available on the [Review Reports and Decisions page](#) of the ENQA website.

The General Assembly also endorsed the Board's decisions to grant affiliate status to the following agencies: the Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care (ECAQA, Kazakhstan), the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE, Germany), the Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality Language Services (Eaquals, United Kingdom), the German Accreditation Council (GAC, Germany), the Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska (RS HEAA, Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Quality Board for Icelandic Higher Education (Iceland), and the European Council for Theological Education (ECTE, Germany), whose affiliation was transferred from the European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA), the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC, Moldova), whose affiliation was transferred from the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Professional Education (ANACIP) as well as the Office for Students

(OfS, United Kingdom), whose affiliation was transferred from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The [2019 work plan](#), presented and approved alongside the 2019 budget, features a few noteworthy activities, including the external review of the ENQA Agency Review process, and the development of ENQA's strategic plan 2021-2024 initiated by the ENQA Board. In order to provide a solid starting point for the work on the strategic plan, the ENQA Board will initiate a process to review ENQA's own understanding of its members – what kind of quality assurance bodies are currently members of ENQA – and, depending on the answer, to redefine the way membership decisions are taken. At the same time, it was made clear that this process will not change ENQA's commitment to the ESG and the general approach how ENQA is conducting external reviews. The ENQA Board will also continue to develop the methodology of the ENQA Agency Reviews and the use and understanding of the ESG 2015 by European QA agencies. In this regard, ENQA will specifically reflect on how to best provide added value through the review process for agencies that are entering their fourth cycle of review. In addition, in 2019 ENQA will continue its work on the professionalisation of quality assurance and staff at QA agencies and engagement in externally funded quality assurance capacity-building projects outside of the EHEA.

Finally, the General Assembly approved the new [ENQA Rules of Procedure](#), which include a revision of the article 7 – Membership under review. The revision was made to cover also those cases in which a member agency becomes unable to meet the ESG during its five-year membership.

2. Members and affiliates

At its October Board meeting, the ENQA Board granted membership to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS, United Kingdom) and reconfirmed the membership of the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA). Affiliate status was granted to the Comité d'accréditation pour les formations du brevet de technicien supérieur (Luxembourg). Decisions from the October Board meeting are expected to be endorsed during the meeting of the General Assembly at the Members' Forum in April 2019.

3. ENQA meetings and events

The [ENQA Workshop on QA of Student-Centred Learning](#), for which the registration is now open, will be hosted by the QAA Scotland on 10-11 December in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The event will discuss how student-centred learning is addressed in quality assurance and how it could be in the future, what are the respective roles of the institutions and agencies, and what is the role of students in the related processes. A €220 participation fee applies for this event.

Kindly mark your calendars also for the next Members' Forum, taking place in Tallinn, Estonia on 25-26 April 2019. The event will be hosted by the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA). Further information about the programme and registration are expected to be announced during the first months of 2019.

The 2019 General Assembly will be hosted by the National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation (ANQA) on 17-18 October 2019 in Yerevan, Armenia. The dates for other meetings and events may be seen in the following table and on the [events webpage](#):

15-17 November 2018	Vienna	European Quality Assurance Forum
10-11 December 2018	Glasgow	ENQA Workshop on QA of Student-Centred Learning
13 December 2018	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
21 February 2019	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
25 April 2019	Tallinn	ENQA Board meeting
25-26 April 2019	Tallinn	ENQA Members' Forum
20 June 2019	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
19 September 2019	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
16 October 2019	Yerevan	ENQA Board meeting
17-18 October 2019	Yerevan	ENQA General Assembly

You may look forward to the next Note from the President following the December Board meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Grolimund', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christoph Grolimund
President of ENQA