

**ENQA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Yerevan, 17–18 October 2019**

**Biographies of the Speakers**



**Gayane Ananyan**

Gayane Ananyan is a specialist at the Institutional and Program Accreditation Division of ANQA. She is responsible for the coordination of the accreditation processes, as well as coordinator of the 'Students' Voice' project. She organises trainings, meetings with representatives responsible for the institutions' internal quality assurance, and role-plays among students to prepare them for their further participation in the accreditation processes as student-experts. Additionally, she coordinates students' research projects that are held continuously within the project to discover the issues students are facing in the institutions. She has participated in various international and local workshops, seminars and conferences. Within the scope of the international projects, she has been responsible for the coordination and monitoring processes of the quality assurance activities.



**Ekaterine Bagishvili**

Ekaterine Bagishvili is the Acting Director at the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE). She has been involved in the quality assurance of education in Georgia for almost ten years. She was engaged in the establishment and implementation of the quality assurance system and used to be an authorization and accreditation expert. She holds a Ph.D. in Law and has more than 20 years of experience in academic activities at various higher education institutions. She has published articles in different scientific journals. She is currently a member of the Scientific Consulting Council for the Legal Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia.



**Kees Gillesse**

Kees Gillesse is the chair of the Intercity Student Council (ISO). The ISO is the national student representation organisation of the Netherlands. The philosophy of the ISO is founded upon strong student involvement in higher education. The ISO works with the ministry and other actors in the field to promote student participation and advocate student interests. He recently finished a master's programme in constitutional and administrative law at Utrecht University, where he was chair of the programme committee that advises the department's educational board.



**Ilva Grigorjeva**

Ilva Grigorjeva has been working as an expert in the Quality Agency for Higher Education of the Academic Information Centre (Latvia) since 2017. Her main responsibilities include: involvement in national regulatory change processes and development of new guidelines for study directions (fields) accreditation and evaluation, study program licensing and accreditation and other documents; study direction (fields) evaluation and licensing procedure coordination; coordination of internal processes as well as improvements proposals, if necessary, in accordance with Quality Management manual. Her previous work experience includes a position of the President for the Student Union of Latvia. She has previously been a member of Higher Education Quality Assurance Council, which developed the National Accreditation Agency's strategy and approved the Study Quality Committee.



**Achim Hopbach**

Achim Hopbach has been working in higher education since 1997. Before taking his current position as Managing Director of the Austrian Quality Assurance Agency (AQ Austria) in 2012, he served as Managing Director of the German Accreditation Council for 7 years. He held and holds various positions in quality assurance agencies and associations, such as President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2009 to 2013; member of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) from 2005 to 2013; member of the University Quality International Board (UQAIB), Dubai, since 2015; member of the Board of the Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties (AVEPRO), Holy See, since 2016. He holds a Master in History, Political Science and Law (University of Heidelberg, Germany) and a PhD in History (University of Heidelberg, Germany)



**Orla Lynch**

Orla Lynch is a policy adviser on quality in higher education for the Department of Education and Skills, Ireland. Orla has been involved in the quality assurance (QA) of education and training in Ireland for over 20 years. She was involved in the establishment and implementation of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and the development of national policy and guidelines for QA including accreditation, monitoring and review. Following her appointment to QQI in 2012, Orla led QQI work in relation to: a system level review of QA in higher education; the development of an integrated system of cyclical review for higher education institutions; the development of a model of ongoing engagement with HEIs through dialogue and annual reporting. Orla was also involved in QA work internationally through the ENQA-led EQArep Project, membership of the Quality Assurance Network and as a serving Director of INQAAHE.



**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. Sandra has more than 14 years of experience in management and design of internal and external quality assurance processes in Higher Education. She is in charge of the assessment and accreditation of university degree programmes and the design, implementation and development of the Management Quality System according to ISO 9001. Since 2018, she is an external expert in Twinning Projects between Morocco-Spain and Algeria-Spain for supporting the implementation of the EHEA. Since 2018, she has been a member of the Steering Committee of the AR-NET Project about Mutual Recognition.



**Lasha Margishvili**

Lasha Margishvili has many years of working experience in the field of higher education. He has been working at the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement on the different positions since 2011 and has solid experience in external quality assurance of higher education. Since 2017, he has been working as a head of Quality Assurance Department for Higher Education. Also, he has been working as an invited lecturer at different universities since 2012 (delivering lectures in constitutional law, municipality law, educational law and many others). He has published the scientific works: "Territorial Organization of the State – Way of Overcoming the Conflict or the Form of National Self-Determination" and "Federalism as the Territorial Organization Form Historically Existing in Georgia" in national scientific journals. He has participated in numerous scientific forums and conferences dedicated to the higher education. He holds a Bachelor of Law and Master of Law

from Tbilisi State University. He is currently a Doctoral student of the law faculty (in field of the constitutional law) at Tbilisi State University.



**Heli Mattisen**

Heli Mattisen (PhD) is the Director of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA). She has participated in all stages of educational reforms in Estonia - developing strategic plans, building up legislative frameworks and putting the plans into practice. She was responsible for the development of the new external quality assurance system in higher education and vocational education and training in Estonia. Heli also has vast international experience. She has supported the elaboration of the state regulation for quality assurance agencies, as well as the methodology for external assessments in Moldova, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and Tajikistan. She has been involved in external reviews as expert in different countries, e.g. Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan. Prior to launching EKKA, Heli worked for 20 years at Tallinn University (as professor, head of department, dean, vice rector). Parallel to her every day job, Heli has been involved in different strategic initiatives in the area of education: she was in charge of the Estonian Teacher Education Strategy and belonged to the steering group of the Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020, as well as to the drafting group of the new Estonian Higher Education Act.



**Galina Motova**

Galina Motova is among the founders of the system of quality assurance in the Russian Federation and a leading researcher into the field of quality assurance, who has participated in the development and implementation of QA criteria and policies at the national level. Galina also co-coordinated numerous accreditation exercises of Russian and foreign higher education institutions and participated as an expert and an observer in international external reviews of HEIs. She has widely lectured on the current issues of education and quality assurance, has organized numerous conferences, forums, workshops, and webinars to the various audiences at the national and international levels. Galina authored and co-authored more than 200 publications. She has also been awarded the titles of Ph.D and Doctor of Education and also the title of the Honored Worker of Education of the Russian Federation. She represents NCPA in different QA networks. For the last four years, she has been on the APQN Board of Directors. Currently she is holding the position of Vice President of APQN.



**Anna Prades**

Anna Prades is the Head of Internationalisation and Knowledge Generation Department of AQU Catalunya, where she has been working since 2001. She has a degree in Psychology (1996) and a PhD in Pedagogy (2005) from the University of Barcelona. She has coordinated, since 2001, the graduate, master and PhD's [employment outcomes survey](#), as well as the [recent graduates' satisfaction survey](#) and the [employers' survey](#). She also has been active in designing quality assessment methodology and designing good-practices guidelines. She has been involved, among other European projects, in the project IMPALA, which purpose was to devise an assessment methodology of the impact of External Quality Assurance procedures.



**Sigurdur Oli  
Sigurdsson**

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 to design and implement a Quality Enhancement Framework in Iceland. Sigurdur 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. Sigurdur 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 held in that time 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.



**Jolanta Silka**

Jolanta Silka is the Head of the Quality Agency for Higher Education of Academic Information Centre (Latvia). She has been involved in the quality assurance in Latvia since 2015 when AIC was officially authorized to provide external quality assurance of higher education in Latvia, including the assessment of study programmes and higher education institutions. She has at least 10 years of professional experience in issues related to higher education (HE), HE policy development and implementation, including implementation of the Bologna process and QA reforms. Her previous work experience includes a senior position at the Ministry of Education and Science in the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and at educational institutions as well. She has contributed to the development of the QA system in Latvia and the drafting of regulatory enactments and methodologies for quality assurance. In addition, she has experience in the external evaluation procedures as an expert and as a member of the decision-making body. She has participated in a number of HE-related projects (as both a manager and an expert).



**Ruben Topchyan**

Ruben Topchyan graduated from Yerevan State University with an award of applied mathematics in 1978. In 1984, he was awarded a PhD degree in physics and mathematics from the Moscow State University. Ruben is an associate professor of computer science at Yerevan State University (since 1986) and Russian-Armenian Slavonic University (since 2001). He was the head of the chair System Programming at Yerevan State University (1992- 2001) and director of university computer center. He served as a director of the Information Technologies Educational and Research Centre (2007-2008). Ruben established the Armenian National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance, Foundation (ANQA) and is director of ANQA since 2008. Under his leadership, ANQA became a member of ENQA and EQAR. Ruben has been leading the development of the Armenian quality assurance system, and has been actively involved in reforms of the higher education system in Armenia. He has lead European and World Bank projects on the reforms of Armenian higher education system and quality assurance framework at the national and institutional levels, and was involved in external review processes as an expert in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Mongolia.



**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). Colin oversees the management of the Register and the support for the EQAR Register Committee, the management of the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR) and EQAR's contribution to shaping the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). 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).



**Pdraig Walsh**

Dr Pdraig Walsh has been the Chief Executive of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) since its establishment in 2012. QQI is responsible for quality assurance in Irish Higher Education and Further Education and Training; acts as the Irish NARIC for qualifications recognition and also has responsibility for maintaining the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Having studied Chemical Engineering at University College Dublin (Ireland) and the University of Missouri (USA), Pdraig subsequently lectured in Bioprocess Engineering at Dublin City University (DCU) for nearly 20 years prior to being appointed the first Director of Quality in that university in 2001. In 2005, he left DCU to become Chief Executive of the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB), which was later amalgamated along with three other Irish quality assurance and qualifications agencies to become QQI. He previously served on the Board of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2011-17 and was the elected President of the Association from 2013-17. He has also served on the governance committees of quality assurance bodies in Portugal, Scotland, Switzerland and the United States.



**Anke van Wier**

Anke van Wier is a project leader at QANU in the Netherlands. At QANU, she manages the accreditation procedures for programmes in Theology, Archaeology, Health Sciences and History. In addition to this, she is also the project lead for the student-involvement project that QANU has developed in close collaboration with the leading Dutch student organisations and NQA, another QA agency. Before QANU, she worked as a lecturer in the European Studies programme of Maastricht University in the Netherlands, where she was involved in the programme committee and part of an advisory committee for student evaluations of teaching.



**Luis Velón**

Luis Velón has worked as an internal and external quality manager in the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (ACSUG, Spain) since 2002. He is the person responsible for the ACSUG Quality Management System, which is externally certified according to the ISO 9001 and 14001 standards and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). He usually participates in the assessment processes of the Galician University System (SUG) degrees and faculties. With respect to the international activities, Luis is the contact person not only with the organizations which ACSUG is a member such as ENQA, EQAR and ECA, but also with other international universities and bodies. He has been involved regularly in surveys, studies, projects and working groups organised at the international level. It is relevant to remark especially, in that sense: the appointment in the ECA Board during 2 years, the coordination of the DEQAR project in ACSUG, the contribution in two European Union Tempus Projects in the Central Asia Area or the participation, as a secretary, in

ACSUG review panels that evaluated degrees in Ibero-American Universities (Peru and México).



**Alina Zhumagulova**

In 2006, Dr. Alina Zhumagulova defended her thesis on “Institute of Human and Civil Rights: Theory and Practice Problems” and received academic degree Candidate of Juridical Sciences. She began her career with civil service in the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2003-2008). From 2008 to 2013, she worked in JSC "Development Bank of Kazakhstan" (2008-2013), where she made an enormous contribution to the development of banking system. In 2013, she continued her career in higher education and worked as a Vice-Rector for Strategic Planning at the Kazakh University of Economics, Finance and International Trade (2013-2014). Since 2015, she has been working as the Director of the IAAR, where she continues to contribute to the national system of quality assurance of education of Kazakhstan. She has more than 21 publications related to education and QA. She is a member of the editorial board of the Education Journal. She has exclusive copyrights to accreditation standards. She is a Member of the Commission on the Direction of Education of "Nur Otan" Party, a Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Engineering of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and a Member of the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISESCO.

