

Note from the President

Bern, 29 October 2019

Dear colleagues,

It was a great pleasure to see many of you in attendance at the ENQA General Assembly in Yerevan this month. I would like to thank ANQA for giving us such a warm welcome. For those of you unable to attend, herein you may find a summary of the decisions taken at the event. 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 2019

The Board is pleased to welcome its newest elected members: Douglas Blackstock (QAA, UK), Antonio Serrano Gonzalez (ACPUA, Spain) and Ruben Topchyan (ANQA, Armenia). All new Board members were elected for a full three-year term. Continuing Board members Daniela Cristina Ghitulica (ARACIS, Romania) and François Pernot (HCERES, France) were elected as Vice-Presidents. I offer my sincerest congratulations to all of them. On behalf of the Board, I would also like to thank Caty Duykaerts (AEQES, Belgium), Eva Ferreira (Unibasq, Spain) and Stefan Handke (ACQUIN, Germany) for their committed service on the Board.

Members present at the General Assembly endorsed the Board's earlier decisions to grant membership to the National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR, Italy) and the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE, Georgia), and to reconfirm membership for the following ten agencies: the Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES, Portugal), the Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Department of Evaluation and Accreditation (AAC-DEVA, Spain), the Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (ACSUG, Spain), the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria), the Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI, France), the Evaluation Agency of Baden-Württemberg, (evalag, Germany), the National Centre of Public Accreditation (NCPA, Russia), the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI, Ireland), the Agency for the Quality of the Basque University System (Unibasq, Spain), and the Flemish Higher Education Council – Quality Assurance (VLUHR QA, Belgium). The Board's decisions to designate "member under review" status to the Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS, Germany) and the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK, Russia) were endorsed as well. Moreover, the General Assembly endorsed the Board's decision to end the membership of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA, Kosovo) following an unsuccessful review. 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 endorsed the Board's decisions to grant affiliate status to the following three agencies: the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ACQAHE, Montenegro), the Association of Transnational Higher Education Accreditation (ATHEA, Austria) and the Agency for Recognition and Quality Assurance in Education (ARQA, Kazakhstan).

The [2020 work plan](#), presented and approved alongside the 2020 budget, features a few noteworthy activities, including the preparatory work for the Rome Ministerial Conference 2020; preparation of a joint E4 conference on quality assurance in the EHEA on that same occasion; and participation in specific Bologna Process implementation projects. ENQA will also examine the revision of the guidelines, methodology, tools and other elements of the ENQA Agency Reviews process following the outcomes of the external review which has taken place during 2019. In addition, in 2020 ENQA will continue its work on the professionalisation of quality assurance and staff at QA agencies for instance through the ENQA Leadership Programme; webinars on topics highlighted by the members; and member-led working groups on specific topics as well as engagement in externally-funded quality assurance capacity-building projects outside of the EHEA. Importantly, 2020 will mark the 20th anniversary of ENQA. Two specific activities are planned to celebrate this occasion which include a special seminar open to higher education stakeholders in conjunction with the ENQA General Assembly in October 2020 in Brussels as well as an anniversary publication.

During the General Assembly meeting, the members were consulted on the second reading of ENQA's Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The new Strategic Plan will be adopted in April 2020 at the General Assembly meeting during the Members' Forum.

2. Invitation to host the ENQA Members' Forum or General Assembly

ENQA members and affiliates are invited to nominate themselves as hosts for the Members' Forums and General Assemblies taking place in 2021 and 2022. Agencies are asked to indicate in their nomination which event they would prefer to host and eventually if they would be available to host even if not given their preference. The call for hosts remains open until 17 January 2020, and the decision determining the locations for the 2021 and 2022 events will be taken by the Board in February 2020. Further information may be found [here](#).

3. ENQA meetings and events

The ENQA webinar series continues in December. The final webinar of 2019 will explore the topic "[How to prepare a good self-assessment report for an ENQA Agency Review – Value of the process for the agency's development](#)." The webinar will take place on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at 15.00-16.00 Brussels time. Registration for the webinar is available [here](#). Registration is open until 3 December and is free of charge.

Kindly save the dates also for the next Members' Forum, taking place on 29-30 April 2020 in Istanbul, Turkey, hosted by the Eurasian Universities Union (EURAS), affiliate of ENQA. The 2020 General Assembly will be hosted by the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (AEQES), the Flemish Higher Education Council – Quality Assurance (VLUHR QA) and the Music Quality Enhancement, the Foundation for Quality Enhancement and Accreditation in Higher Music Education (MusiQuE) on 22-23 October 2020 in Brussels, Belgium. The dates for other meetings and events may be seen in the following table and on the [events webpage](#):

21-23 November 2019	Berlin	European Quality Assurance Forum
28 November 2019	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
4 December 2019		ENQA Webinar on how to prepare a good SAR
11-13 December 2019	Bucharest	ENQA Leadership Programme – Seminar 2
20 February 2020	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
4-6 March 2020	The Hague	ENQA Leadership Programme – Seminar 3
29 April 2020	Istanbul	ENQA Board meeting

29-30 April 2020	Istanbul	ENQA Members' Forum
18 June 2020	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
17 September 2020	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
October 2020	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting (in conjunction with the ENQA General Assembly)
22-23 October 2020	Brussels	ENQA General Assembly
19-21 November 2020	Helsinki	European Quality Assurance Forum

You may look forward to the next Note from the President following the November 2019 Board meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President of ENQA