

Report to the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) meeting, 13/14 October 2011, Krakow

25 September 2011

1. This report summarises EQAR's activities since the last BFUG meeting of 17/18 March 2011.

Admissions to the Register

2. The Register Committee approved applications by three quality assurance agencies for inclusion on the Register:
 - Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education (**AERES**, France)
 - Danish Evaluation Institute (**EVA**)
 - Quality Assurance Netherlands Universities (**QANU**)

The Register now includes 26 quality assurance agencies.

3. The next meeting of the Register Committee will take place on 20/21 November 2011. Four applications are pending decision at that meeting, one new applicant and three applications for renewal of inclusion.
4. These three renewal applications are from quality assurance agencies where five years have elapsed since the external review of the agency. These are the first renewal applications to be considered.

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/register.html>

External Evaluation

5. The External Evaluation Panel was appointed by the Steering Group for the External Evaluation of EQAR working under the auspices and with the support of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA, USA):
 - Sir John Daniel (Chair of the Evaluation Panel), President and Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth of Learning, Canada
 - Barbara Brittingham, President/Director of the Commission of Institutions of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, USA
 - Liam Burns, President of NUS Scotland (National Union of Students)
 - Eduardo Marçal Grilo, Professor and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal
 - Lis Lange, Senior Director, Institutional Research and Academic Planning, University of the Free State, South-Africa
 - Pall Skúlason, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Iceland

- David Parry (Secretary to the Evaluation Panel), Higher Education consultant, United Kingdom

6. The Panel conducted a site visit to Brussels on 12 – 14 May 2011 and interviewed EQAR committees, stakeholder organisations and samples of governmental members, non-member governments and quality assurance agencies.
7. The Panel has submitted its final report to EQAR. The report will be discussed at the first EQAR Members' Dialogue (see below), which will form the basis for a follow-up and implementation plan.
8. The Panel's Report will be submitted to ministers and the BFUG together with the follow-up and implementation plan, which will be agreed by EQAR members in early 2012.
9. The main findings of the External Evaluation will be presented in the BFUG Thematic Session on 14 October 2011.

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/about/external-evaluation.html>

Membership

10. Since the last BFUG meeting, three countries have decided to become Governmental Members of EQAR:

- Azerbaijan
- Latvia
- Montenegro

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/association/members.html>

<http://www.eqar.eu/association/members/becoming-a-governmental-member.html>

EQAR Members' Dialogue

11. The first EQAR Members' Dialogue will take place on 21/22 November 2011 in Vienna. The Dialogue will be a unique event for all governmental and stakeholder members of EQAR to discuss the results of the external evaluation and to exchange ideas for future development.
12. The Members' Dialogue will offer ample opportunity to exchange views and ideas on the future role of external quality assurance and the Register in particular. The event's focus will be to develop strategies for enhancing EQAR's impact in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).