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UPDATE ON EQAR ACTIVITIES

Updates regarding the Register and implementation of ESG 2015

1. At its last meeting in Lyon on 2/3 December 2016, the Register Committee (RC) reviewed a number of applications, most of them renewals, and also discussed a possible policy document on external quality assurance and other activities of registered QAAs.
2. The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) was admitted to the Register.
3. The RC also renewed the registration of four agencies:
 - AAQ - Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance
 - ACQUIN - Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (Germany)
 - AI - The Danish Accreditation Institution
 - ZEvA - Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (Germany)

These four are the first agencies to have their registration renewed based on the ESG 2015.

<http://www.eqar.eu/documents/decisions.html>

Position of President in EQAR

4. The Extraordinary General Assembly on 25 November 2016 adopted a proposal to clarify the position of president in EQAR and appointed the Selection Committee to propose a suitable candidate for election by the General Assembly. The Selection Committee, which included representatives of EQAR members (governments and stakeholder organisations), the Executive Board and Register Committee, proposed one candidate who is to be elected at the General Assembly of 25 May 2017.
5. On 12 April 2017, in front of a notary public, an EQAR Extraordinary General Assembly formally adopted the required statutory changes that had been agreed to in Oslo.
<https://eqar.eu/documents/official.html>
6. The new President will take office on 1 July 2017 and serve as the chair the Register Committee, Executive Board and General Assembly of EQAR.

Database of quality assurance results and decisions

7. Following up the discussions and suggestion made at the EQAR Members' Dialogue in Oslo last November 2016, EQAR made an application for a grant under the EU's Erasmus+ programme to support the initial establishment of the database.
8. If accepted, the Erasmus+ grant would primarily compensate EQAR-registered quality assurance agencies for their efforts to align their own IT systems to the database and to establish an automatic upload and update of information. Of the 44 EQAR-registered agencies, 28 agencies are involved in the proposal directly or indirectly, representing ca. 75% of the total external quality assurance activities carried out by EQAR-registered agencies. In addition, the European stakeholder organisations, one ENIC-NARIC centre and the University of Gent are involved in the proposal in different capacities.
9. EQAR further prepared formal decisions on the EQAR budget and membership fees, in order to secure the funding and long-term sustainability. Decisions are to be taken at the upcoming General Assembly in Malta (25 May).

<https://eqar.eu/documents/presentations.html>

Key Considerations for CBQA

Following up the recommendations from the RIQAA project, EQAR and the E4 Group (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) discussed further the key issues that should be taken into consideration when planning cross-border quality assurance activities.

10. After discussions of drafts with participants at this year's European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) in Ljubljana (Slovenia), the workshop of the BFUG WG2 on Implementation in Nice and by the various organisations with their members, the final version of the key considerations was published in early 2017.

11. The key considerations are non-binding in character and aim to assist higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies. In addition, they might serve as a useful tool also for governments when reviewing their legal frameworks with a view to allowing their institutions to make use of a suitable EQAR-registered agency in fulfilling their external QA requirements.

<https://eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/e4/key-considerations-for-cross-border-quality-assurance-in-the-ehea.pdf>

EQAR governmental membership

12. On 1 January 2017, Greece became the 39th governmental member of EQAR. Governmental members take an active part in shaping EQAR's activities, strategic direction, plan of work and bringing further contribution within the regular meetings of the EQAR General Assemblies and Members' Dialogue.

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