

17 quality agencies now feature on EQAR

– Communiqué from the Chair of the Register Committee –

Brussels, 7 October 2009

1. In the context of the Bologna Process, the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) was founded in March 2008 to enhance transparency and trust in quality assurance. It enables all stakeholders to identify credible and legitimate agencies that perform quality reviews of higher education institutions or programmes in line with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG²).
2. The Register Committee is an independent body of EQAR made up of independent experts in quality assurance who were nominated by key stakeholders. It reviews and decides upon applications for inclusion on the Register.
3. The Register Committee has presented to the 3rd EQAR General Assembly an account of its work on the first two batches of applications. The report, which includes a detailed presentation of EQAR's application process and the criteria for inclusion, can now be consulted publicly at:

http://www.eqar.eu/register_committee_report_2009.pdf

Third application round

4. By the latest deadline, 26 July 2009, eight applications for inclusion on EQAR were received. Two applications were pending after the Register Committee's last meeting in April 2009; one of those two has withdrawn its application meanwhile.
5. The European Register now features 17 quality assurance agencies, after the Register Committee, on 30 September 2009, has approved the applications for inclusion from 8 agencies:
 - Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Research of Andalucía (AGAE)
 - Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS)
 - Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance (AQA)
 - Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)
 - Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC, Ireland)

EQAR Founding Members:



- Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB)
- National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA, Bulgaria)
- Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR, Belgium)

6. One application had to be postponed and will be considered further at the Register Committee's next meeting in early 2010.

Next application deadline

7. The Register Committee will convene for its next meeting on 16 and 17 April 2010. The deadline for applications to be considered at that meeting will be 12 February 2010.

Bryan McMahon
Chair of the Register Committee

Notes:

1. **The Register is accessible online at:**
<http://www.eqar.eu/register.html>
2. The European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) are available on the EQAR website:
<http://www.eqar.eu/application/criteria.html>
3. The report from the Register Committee to the 3rd General Assembly can be consulted on the EQAR website:
http://www.eqar.eu/register_committee_report_2009.pdf

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