

First applications for inclusion on EQAR

– Communiqué from the Chair of the Register Committee –

Brussels, 5 December 2008

1. The Register Committee convened on 22/23 November 2008 in Budapest to consider the first applications for inclusion on the Register received from quality assurance agencies by the 3 October deadline. The Register Committee is an independent body of EQAR made up of independent experts in quality assurance who were nominated by the key stakeholders. Its task is to review and take decisions on all applications received.
2. Following the establishment of EQAR in March 2008, the first task of the Register Committee was to prepare Procedures for Applications governing its work. These procedures are based upon the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) adopted by the European ministers of higher education in Bergen in 2005 and were adopted through a process that included consultation of the different stakeholder bodies and governments represented in the General Assembly of EQAR.
3. Following the publication of the Procedures (see “Notes” for a weblink) a first call to quality assurance agencies inviting them to apply for inclusion on the register was launched in August 2008.
4. Aware of the importance of the Register for the European Higher Education Area the Register Committee took great care to follow these commonly agreed Procedures in its work. They describe the process and the conditions that quality agencies need to fulfil if they wish to be listed on the register, including:
 - the formal requirements that must be fulfilled in relation to the conduct of the external review of the applicant agency; and
 - the substantial compliance of their activities with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG).
5. The Register Committee considered the applications received with regard to these two important elements, in this way ensuring fair and consistent decision making based on reliable evidence provided by the agencies concerned.

6. Following examination of the applications received EQAR is now pleased to announce the first three quality assurance agencies to be listed on the European register of quality assurance agencies:

- National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)
- Agency for Quality Assurance in the Catalan University System (AQU)
- Accreditation Organization of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)

7. Further applications are pending.

8. The next meeting of the Register Committee will take place in April 2009. The deadline for applications will be in early February 2009. More details will be available shortly on the EQAR website.

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 Procedures for Applications, as well as other official documents, can be consulted on the EQAR website:

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

http://www.eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/official/RC_01_1_ProceduresForApplications_v1_0.pdf

4. EQAR was founded on 4 March 2008 by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), the European Students' Union (ESU), the European University Association (EUA) and the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE). Please consult our website for general information.