

Press release

15 April 2009

EQAR now lists nine quality assurance agencies

Brussels. As from today, nine quality assurance agencies, active in twelve European countries, feature on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). Three agencies (ANECA, Spain; AQU Catalunya, Spain and NVAO, Flanders and the Netherlands) have already been listed on the Register since December 2008. The following six agencies have now been added, following approval of their applications by the Register Committee on 4/5 April 2009:

ACQUIN	(Germany)	PKA	(Poland)
ASIIN	(Germany)	VLHORA	(Belgium)
FIBAA	(Germany)	ZEvA	(Germany)

The Register with full information on included agencies is available at:

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

EQAR was established in 2008 in the context of the Bologna Process. To be included, quality assurance agencies have to evidence that they work in line with agreed European principles, set out in the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG). EQAR's Register Committee – an independent body consisting of quality assurance experts nominated by European stakeholder organisations of higher education institutions, students, quality assurance agencies and the social partners – decides on applications for inclusion.

Irish High Court Judge Mr Justice Bryan McMahon, Chair of the Register Committee, said: "I am pleased that we could accept six additional quality agencies on the Register after careful scrutiny of their applications. This is a big step ahead in establishing EQAR as a meaningful and reliable information tool that allows students, institutions and the wider public to identify credible and legitimate agencies that perform quality reviews of higher education institutions and programmes in Europe."

A Communiqué from the Chair of the Register Committee, with further information about EQAR's application process, has been released today:

http://www.eqar.eu/T_090415_EQAR_CommuniqueRCChair.pdf

– Ends –

For further information, please contact:

Colin Tüeck (Acting Director), GSM +32 485 28 23 55, colin.tueck@eqar.eu

EQAR was founded by the "E4 Group", comprising of 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), under the mandate from Europe's ministers of education.