

Collaboration in Quality Assurance and Accreditation, Global and Regional

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INQAAHE

International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

OUTLINE

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- ❖ Common issues and priorities in QAA's
- ❖ INQAAHE, the Global Network
- ❖ Aims, Activities, Services
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- ❖ INQAAHE and Regional QA Networks
- ❖ Regional Cooperation in Europe
- ❖ The European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA)
- ❖ Conditions for success, difficulties to overcome



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INTRODUCTION

- ✘ Bologna Declaration 1999: start process of fundamental changes in European Higher Education
- ✘ Governments taking “responsibility” for EQA; shift from enhancement to accountability
- ✘ National Legal Frameworks – in accordance with international standards (ESG)



COMMON ISSUES AND PRIORITIES FOR QAA'S

- ❖ Information sharing and liaising
- ❖ Capacity building in national systems
- ❖ Research and policy development
- ❖ Collaboration, bilateral and networks

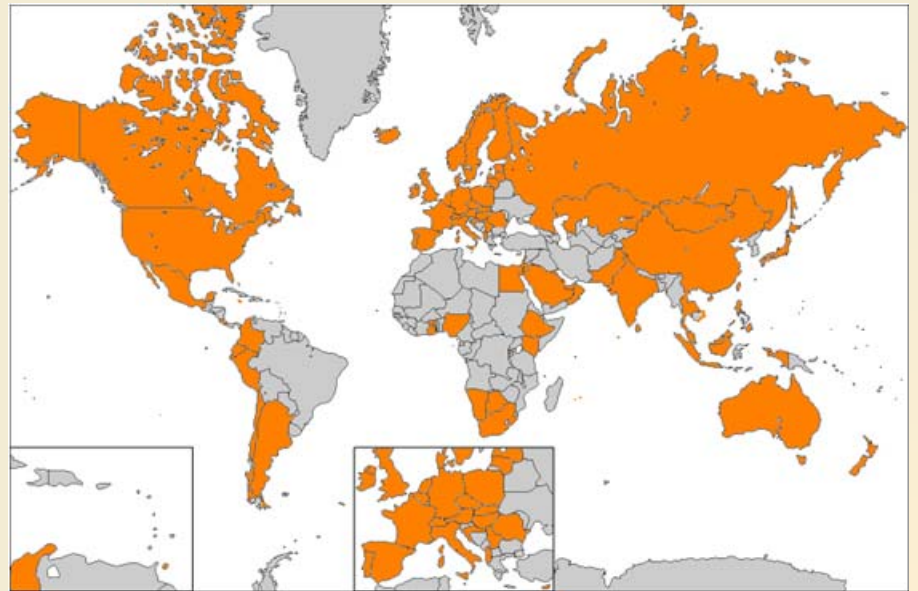


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INQAAHE

- ❖ The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
- ❖ Established in 1991
- ❖ NGO Status with UNESCO
- ❖ > 200 members (2009)
 - ❖ Six continents
 - ❖ 80 countries



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The main purpose of INQAAHE is to collect and disseminate information on current and developing theory and practice in the assessment, improvement and maintenance of quality in higher education



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AIMS OF INQAAHE (1)

- ❖ promote good practices;
- ❖ facilitate research into the practice of quality management in HE;
- ❖ provide advice to new QA agencies (dev. countr);
- ❖ facilitate links between accrediting bodies;
- ❖ permit better-informed international recognition of qualifications;



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AIMS OF INQAAHE (2)

- ❖ assist members to determine the standards of institutions operating across national borders;
- ❖ be able to assist in the development and use of credit transfer schemes;
- ❖ enable members to be alert to dubious accrediting practices (“accreditation mills”)



ACTIVITIES

INQAAHE holds:

- ❖ A biennial conference and general assembly
 - ❖ in Bangalore 2001, Dublin 2003, Wellington 2005, Toronto 2007, Abu Dhabi 2009).
- ❖ A biennial INQAAHE members' forum for representatives of member agencies
 - ❖ In Budapest 2000, Kingston 2002, Muscat 2004, The Hague 2006, Buenos Aires 2008, Windhoek 2010).

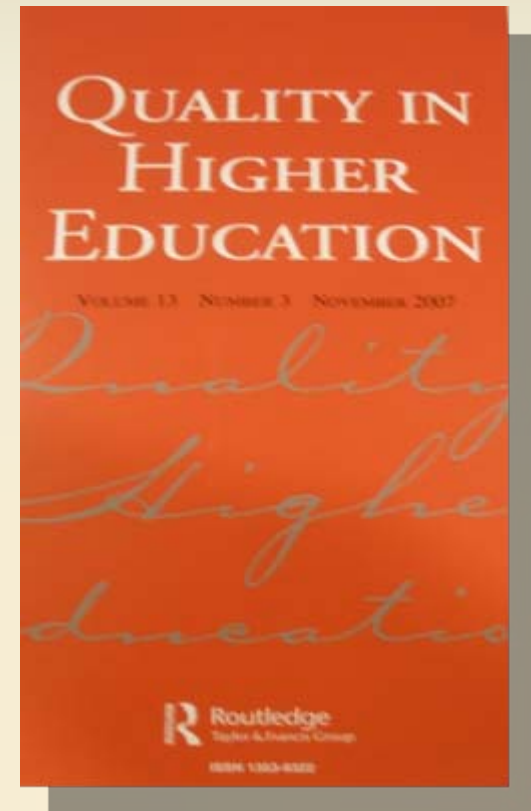


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PUBLICATIONS (1)

- ❖ Journal:
Quality in Higher Education
 - ❖ Published 3 times per year
 - ❖ Internal and external quality assurance
 - ❖ Theory and practice



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PUBLICATIONS (2)

- ❖ Electronic Bulletin: 4 times per year
- ❖ Regular news updates from members, from the (regional) networks and from the Board



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SERVICES

- ❖ Website, with proceedings, discussion papers, etc
- ❖ Rapid answer Query Service
- ❖ Clearinghouse (website, launch 2010)
- ❖ Reviewers and consultants database (under development)
- ❖ Education and Training courses and qualifications (QAP-program, launch in November 2009, EQAF Copenhagen)



INQAAHE & CAPACITY BUILDING

- ❖ Guidelines of Good Practices (GGP)
- ❖ Alignment with GGP
- ❖ Development fund
- ❖ Database of Good Practices in QA (GPQA) (under development)
- ❖ Global initiative for QA Capacity-building (GIQAC), supported by WorldBank and UNESCO



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INQAAHE AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

- ❖ INQAAHE works not only with its member agencies but also with and for other networks of agencies
- ❖ Various regional networks have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with INQAAHE



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INQAAHE AND REGIONAL NETWORKS (2)

- ❖ Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE)
- ❖ **ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)**
- ❖ **Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)**
- ❖ Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE)
- ❖ **Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEEN)**
- ❖ Eurasian Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN)
- ❖ **European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)**
- ❖ **European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA)**
- ❖ Ibero-American Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (RIACES)
- ❖ Quality Assurance Network for African Higher Education (AfriQAN)



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REGIONAL COOPERATION IN EUROPE

- ❖ 4 Regional Networks in Europe
- ❖ ENQA
- ❖ CEE Network
- ❖ ECA
- ❖ NOQA



ENQA

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION



european consortium for accreditation



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THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR ACCREDITATION (ECA)



- ❖ Political basis for Mutual Recognition initiatives in Europe:

Bologna Ministers Conference, Bergen 2005:

“We underline the importance of cooperation between nationally recognised agencies with a view to enhancing the mutual recognition of accreditation or quality assurance decisions”



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ECA - ROADMAP TO MUTUAL RECOGNITION



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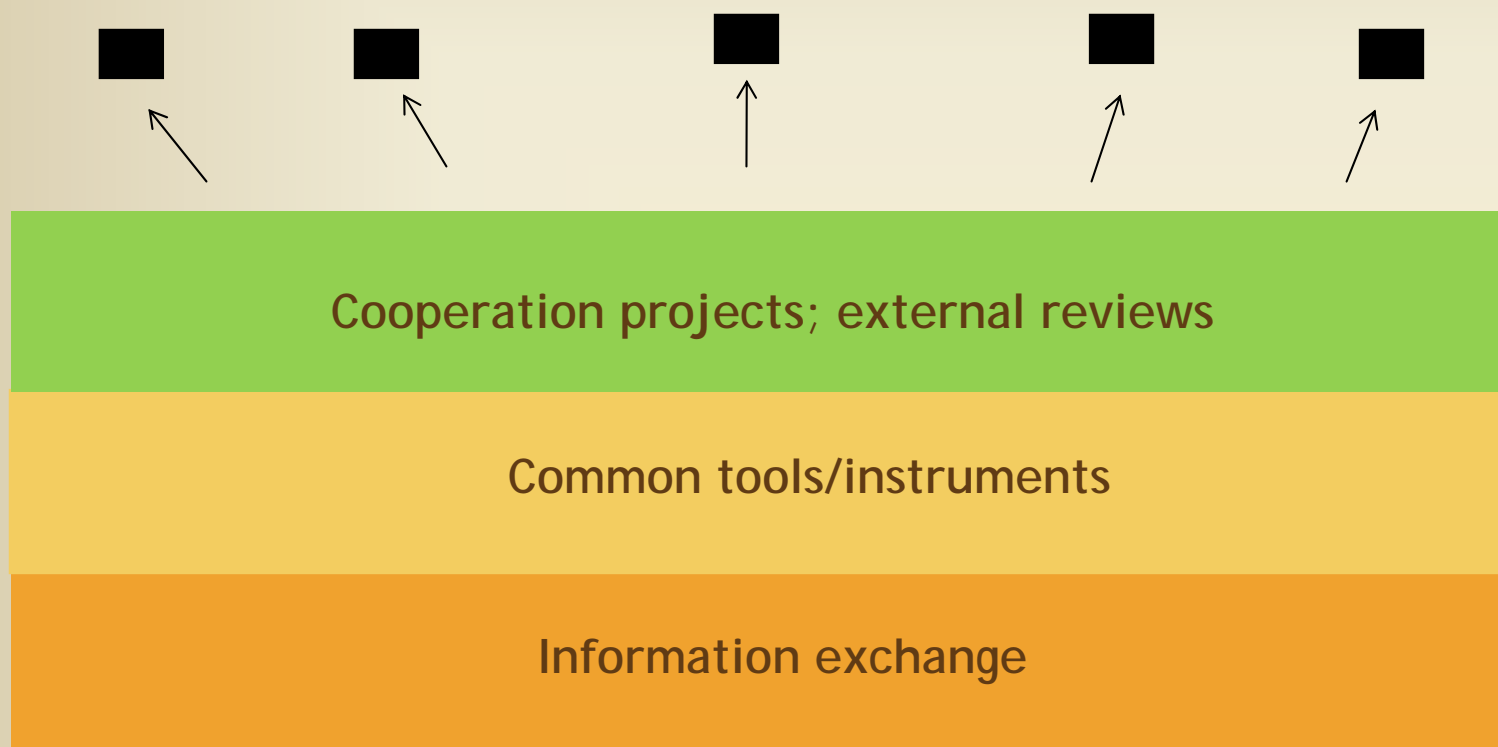
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European Consortium for Accreditation 18

ECA - TRUST BUILDING PROCESS

Bilateral Mutual Recognition Agreements



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European consortium for accreditation

NEEDS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

- ❖ Small group of homogeneous, committed partners
- ❖ Agree to cooperate; avoid (over)formalism
- ❖ Clear project goals; roadmap with milestones
- ❖ Mechanisms for building Trust: commonly agreed principles, mutual cooperation projects, etc.
- ❖ Positive outputs at group level and results that bring a win for individual members
- ❖ Cooperation with other organisations



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European consortium for accreditation

DIFFICULTIES TO OVERCOME

- ✘ Different legal frameworks, within the same standards?
- ✘ Language, interpretations of terminology
- ✘ Cultural differences, how to deal with critical remarks in review reports, transparency/publicity, student participation



QUESTIONS

- ❖ Ask them now!
- ❖ Visit the websites:
<http://www.inqaahe.org>
<http://www.ecaconsortium.net>
- ❖ Send an e-mail to
inqaahe@nvao.net or
m.frederiks@nvao.net (ECA Coordinator)



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Thank you for your attention !



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