

ECA Work Plan 2009-2010

Draft

Working group 3 “Crossroads and information strategies”

Composition:

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The Management Group has decided that in addition to Crossroads WG 3 should focus too on other information strategies, like publications, papers and different ways of promoting and disseminating the work of ECA. The composition of WG 3 can be modified by the participating agencies so that it reflects both competencies (Crossroads and information strategies) depending on the topic to be discussed.

Priorities in the past year

Last year WG 3 considered the following activities to be the most important:

- 1. All ECA member agencies to be included with data in Crossroads.*
At the beginning of June 2009 not all ECA members have included their data yet. These members will be asked at the ECA Workshop in Zürich to raise the priority of including data in Crossroads.
- 2. A promotion plan for communicating and promoting Crossroads both on a European level and nationally.*

This item has not been discussed yet due to the fact that not all present ECA members are included in Crossroads. The promotion plan should be discussed in the new year in accordance with the inclusion of current countries and the extension of Crossroads with new countries.

- 3. Feedback possibilities for users; users statistics, on line surveys.*
Users statistics and possibilities for on line surveys have been included in the assignment for improvements of Crossroads (TEAM II funding).
- 4. Defining the content of the accreditation statement.*

Currently practices vary according to what agencies have and make available. In the new year a conclusion should be reached on the content of the accreditation statement that minimally can be expected.

Priorities for 2009-2010

A. Crossroads

- A1. Inclusion of all present ECA members with all data in Crossroads.*

- A2. Improvements in Grossroads 2.0 (TEAM II project).
- A3. Monitoring developments in accreditation systems by improved publicly available accreditation profiles and by making recent news on members accessible through members fora. This is included as Grossroads improvement in TEAM II and amounts to a renewed ECA website.
- A4. Extension of Grossroads (TEAM II project); extension to a total of 13 countries and databases with institutional and programme details (learning outcomes).
- A5. Grossroads manuals and training of local administrators for Grossroads 2.0 (TEAM II project).
- A6. Defining what minimally can be expected of the content of the accreditation statement.

B. Information strategies

- B1. Communication and dissemination strategy for ECA (aims, different target groups and appropriate communication means such as websites, publications, presentations, conferences, seminars, etc.).
- B2. A plan for communicating and promoting Grossroads both on a European and national level.
- B3. Follow up on cooperation agreements with CEEN and INQAAHE, and the affiliate membership with ENQA.
- B4. ECA standard presentation to be used by members for presenting ECA at conferences, seminars, etc.

At the beginning of September 2009 WG 3 will meet in The Hague to discuss the implementation of the priorities for 2009-2010. The planning for the implementation of the Grossroads priorities will follow the timing of the TEAM II project. The planning for the Information strategies priorities will be determined at the meeting in September.

Dissemination of the work of the Consortium

On 15 December 2008 a ECA seminar for ECA agencies on "Institutional accreditation and audits" was organised by NVAO in The Hague. This was followed on 16 December by a NVAO seminar on International benchmarking. This seminar was attended by representatives of Dutch and Flemish institutions and ECA agencies. Presentations during the ECA seminar can be downloaded from:

<http://www.eaconsortium.net/seminar/documents.php>

On 7 and 8 May 2009 ÖAR and NVAO organised a seminar on "Private higher education in Europe" in Vienna. Presentations can be downloaded from:

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/cont/de/PresentationsVienna7_8May2009.aspx

A possible topic for a ECA seminar end of 2009 would be "Accreditation and the quality of internationalisation".

ECA has written a position paper on "Bologna beyond 2010" to inform the Ministerial Conference in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve that took place on 28-29 April 2009. The ECA position paper has been sent to the Bologna Follow Up Group, and is published on the Bologna Process website:

<http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/conference/documents.htm>

Special attention should be given to dissemination of the work of ECA to stakeholders. WG 3 should take this into account when developing a communication and dissemination strategy (cf. Priority B1 of WG 3).

Exchange of information with other bodies

ECA has an affiliated membership with ENQA. The ECA Chairperson has frequently contacted the ENQA Presidency in view of the preparation of ECA's position paper for the Ministerial Conference.

ECA will continue its affiliate membership and sent its Work plan 2009-2010 to ENQA.

In June 2006 ECA and CEEN have signed a cooperation agreement which mentions the following activities:

- Exchange of expertise, information and communication.
- Development of common tools and guidelines in order to ensure the quality of procedures.
- Invitation of representatives of CEEN and ECA to the respective meetings and working groups.
- Promotion of collaboration between the respective member agencies (e.g. mutual invitation to quality assessments, cooperation projects).

In May 2008 the ECA Coordinator was invited for a presentation on mutual recognition to the CEEN Workshop in Tirana. WG 3 (cf. Priority B3) should discuss how the cooperation agreement with CEEN can be made more effective.

In December 2008 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between ECA and INQAAHE. The two organisations will exchange non-confidential policy documents and relevant non-confidential operational information to enable the two organisations to support and learn from each other.

Therefore, the ECA position paper on Bologna beyond 2010 was sent to INQAAHE. The Work plan 2009-2010 should also be sent to INQAAHE. Furthermore, the following activities are mentioned in the Memorandum:

- Facilitate bilateral contacts between European and extra-European quality assurance agencies;
- Create the opportunity for methodological exchange in the frame of assessment approaches such as the comparison of current or planned accreditation-like practices around the world, the inclusion of learning outcomes in the assessment method, and modalities for the accreditation of joint programmes;
- Create a platform for mutual learning on the existing regional mutual recognition projects;
- Explore new models of mutual recognition practices and their applicability;
- Exchange of good practices also by means of ad hoc workshops which might be integrated into the INQAAHE conference or forum or in the ECA seminars or workshops;

- Publish the outcomes of the INQAAHE-ECA cooperation in the Journal “Quality in Higher Education”.

IN 2009 a new INQAAHE Working Group on Mutual Recognition will be set up. This Working Group will be chaired by Rolf Heusser who was elected as INQAAHE Board member in April 2009.

Working group 3 should discuss a plan for the implementation of the activities mentioned in the Memorandum (cf. Priority B3).