

## EQAR Seminar on Cross-Border External QA Agenda (29/30 April 2014)

**Hosted by:** Accreditation Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN)  
**Venue:** [Hotel Rheingold](#) (Austraße 2D-95445, Bayreuth, Germany)

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Cross-Border External  
QA

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### Tuesday 29 April 2014

9:00 Registration

9:30 Official Opening - Plenary Session

Welcoming words - ACQUIN

#### **Overview of cross-border QA reviews in the EHEA**

Chair: Maria Kelo (EQAR, President of the Executive Board)

Speakers:

- Eric Froment (EQAR, Chair of the Register Committee) - Policy and legal frameworks of cross-border QAA
- Melinda Szabó (EQAR, Project Officer) - Presentation of the results from the Questionnaire for QAAs

Q&A

10:30 – Coffee Break

11:00 Plenary Session

#### **Insight from stakeholders involved in cross-border EQA**

Chair: Andrée Sursock (Senior Advisor EUA)

Speakers:

- Jan Frömning (Accreditation Manager, Technical University of Munich)
- Katja Kamšek (Quality Assurance Officer, University of Ljubljana)
- Henni Saarela (Member of the QA Steering Committee, European Students' Union)
- Allan Bruun Pedersen (Senior Adviser, ENIC Naric - Denmark)

Q&A

12:40 Lunch

14:00 Plenary Session

#### **A diversity of approaches in cross-border EQA**

Chair: Sylvia Manning (Higher Learning Commission, USA)

Speakers:

- Christoph Grolimund (Director, OAQ)
- Irene Ainsworth (Head of Degree-Awarding Powers and University Title, QAA)
- Teresa Sánchez Chaparro, Programme Director CTI) & Caty Duykaerts (Head of Executive Unit, AEQES)
- Marion Moser (Deputy Managing Director) & Stefan Handke (Head of ACQUIN Programme)

Q&A

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16:00 Coffee break

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16:30 Parallel sessions

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**Session I. A snapshot of cross-border EQA**

Chair: Lucien Bollaert (EQAR, Vice-Chair of the Register Committee)

Speakers:

- Andrée Sursock (Senior Advisor EUA) & Alicja Bochajczuk (Project officer, Institutional Evaluation Programme - EUA)
- Anke Rigbers (CEO, evalag)

**Session II. Simulation of a cross-border EQA**

Facilitator: Melinda Szabo (EQAR, Project Officer)

18:00 Day ends

18:30 Guided Tour in Bayreuth

20:00 Dinner

**Wednesday 30 April 2014**

9:30 Parallel sessions

**Session I. Simulation of a cross-border EQA**

Facilitator: Allan Päll (RIQAA Advisory Group)

**Session II. A snapshot of cross-border EQA**

Chair: Lucien Bollaert (EQAR, Vice-Chair of the Register Committee)

Speakers:

- Andrée Sursock (Senior Advisor EUA) & Alicja Bochajczuk (Project officer, Institutional Evaluation Programme - EUA)
- Anke Rigbers (CEO, evalag)

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Plenary session - **Wrap-Up, Conclusions and Next Steps**

Moderator: Colin Tück (Director, EQAR)

Speakers: Chairs from the Parallel Sessions

General rapporteur: David Crosier (Education System Analyst, Eurydice)

Trends and developments in the area of cross-border activity of QA agencies

Overcoming cultural, national and institutional differences in cross-border EQA

**12:40 Lunch and departure**

**14:00-17:00 RIQAA Advisory Group Meeting** (held at ACQUIN e. V. Geschäftsstelle Brandenburger, Str. 2, 95448 Bayreuth)

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## Description of parallel session 1. Simulation of a cross-border EQA

Hand-outs will be provided with a simulated call for a cross-border QAA review in a HE institution. Participants will be divided in three groups and asked to consider a possible review (evaluation, audit and accreditation) done by their QAA in a fictional HE institution.

The following scenarios will be presented to the three groups:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Group – Programme accreditation at “Dracula University” (Romania)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Group – Institutional evaluation at “Tintin University of Applied Sciences” (Belgium)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Group – Institutional audit at the “Sisi Academy of Music (Austria)”

Participants of each group will then discuss the following issues for their particular HEI or programme review:

1. Why would your agency engage (or not) in this particular cross-border EQA?
2. What will be the timeframe of the review?
3. What would be the ideal team (e.g. non-national experts only or a mix)? What are the implications of these two options?
4. In what language should the EQA review be conducted? What are the consequences of the different possible options?
5. Should the national QA agency, the accreditation council or other relevant bodies be contacted? If yes, for what purpose?
6. Should the agency’s criteria or the review processes change and adapt to the HEI’s request/needs? If yes, what are the principles that should underlie any change?
7. Should the external report conform to the national agency’s reports?
8. How should the follow-up processes be carried out?
9. What would be the approximate cost of such a review?

## Description of parallel session 2. A snapshot of cross-border EQA

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Presentations (IEP & evalag) followed by discussion on:

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1. **Practices and procedures** employed by agencies in their cross-border reviews

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### Guiding questions:

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- Are the **criteria and processes** employed by the agency the same as in the home EQA framework? If not, where can the differences be found?
- Are there differences in the composition of the review team, publication of reports, follow-up activities? If yes, why? And how are these practices managed by the agency?
- To what extent does the diversity of HE systems affect the diversity of external quality assurance?
- How are the European Standards and Guidelines underpinning cross-border reviews? What is the role of the European Qualifications Frameworks (QF-EHEA and EQF-LLL)?

2. The **rationale, the benefits and the challenges** for QAAs to pursue cross-border reviews

### Guiding questions:

- What are the benefits related to agencies' cross-border reviews?
- What are the main challenges in carrying out QA reviews in another EQA framework? How can these challenges be addressed?
- What is the recognition status of EQA activities for a non-national QAA? What are the challenges for the recognition of joint programmes and degrees? How can they be addressed?
- What are the main actions that can facilitate external QA reviews (evaluation, audit, and accreditation) across borders? At what level should these changes be made (international, national, institutional)?
- What are the main reasons for HEIs to carry out an external QA review with a foreign QAA?