

Recognising International Quality Assurance Activity in the European Higher Education Area (RIQAA)



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EQAR Seminar on

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

Hosted by : Accreditation Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN) Venue: <u>Hotel Rheingold (</u> Austraße 2D-95445, Bayreuth, Germany)	Cross-Border External QA	
	Ver.	0.3
	Date	24/04/2014

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

<u>Chair:</u> Maria Kelo (EQAR, President of the Executive Board) <u>Speakers:</u>

- 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

<u>Q&A</u>

- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 Plenary Session

Insight from stakeholders involved in cross-border EQA

Chair: Andrée Sursock (Senior Advisor EUA)

<u>Speakers:</u>

- Jan Frömming (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)

<u>Q&A</u>

12:40 Lunch

14:00 Plenary Session

A diversity of approaches in cross-border EQA

<u>Chair</u>: Sylvia Manning (Higher Learning Commission, USA)

<u>Speakers:</u>



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- 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)

<u>Q&A</u>

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Parallel sessions

Session I. A snapshot of cross-border EQA

<u>Chair</u>: Lucien Bollaert (EQAR, Vice-Chair of the Register Committee)

<u>Speakers:</u>

- 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

<u>Chair</u>: Lucien Bollaert (EQAR, Vice-Chair of the Register Committee)

<u>Speakers:</u>

- 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



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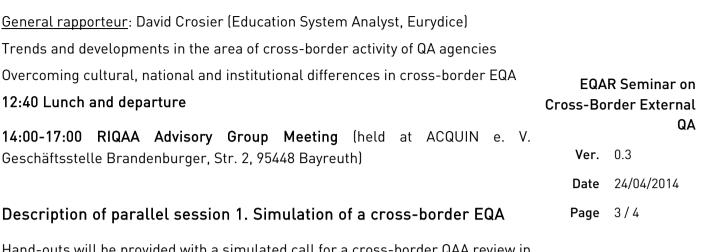
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Hand-outs will be provided with a simulated call for a cross-border QAA review in a HE institution. Participants will be divided in three groups and asked to consider a possible review (evaluation, audit and accreditation) done by their QAA in a fictional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

The following scenarios will be presented to the three groups:

- 1st Group Programme accreditation at "Dracula University" (Romania)
- 2nd Group Institutional evaluation at "Tintin University of Applied Sciences "(Belgium)
- $3^{\rm rd}$ 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 crossborder 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?







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

Presentations (IEP & evalag) followed by discussion on:

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

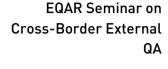
Guiding questions:

- 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 crossborder 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 crossborder 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?





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