

ECA NEWS IN 2016



Best wishes for 2017

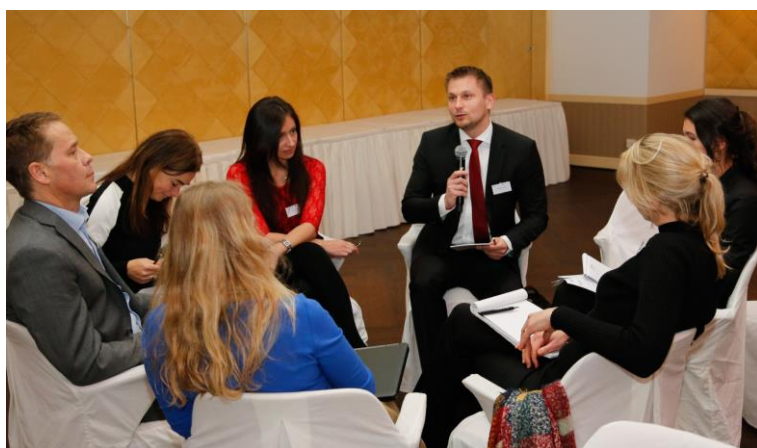
From all of us @ ECA

We're happy to present a selection of the major ECA news items of the past year.

ECA-NVAO Winter Seminar 2016: Quality Assurance of Cross-Border Higher Education



On 15 and 16 December 2016 the ECA-NVAO Winter Seminar was held. On 15 December the seminar took place in the [Kurhaus](#) in The Hague. The day started with a smaller seminar for the recipients of the ECA Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation ([CeQulnt](#)) and representatives of ECA. Dr Laura Rumbley from [Boston College, Center for International Higher Education](#) gave an overview of recent developments related to the quality of internationalisation. Hendrik Jan Hobbes from [EP-Nuffic](#) presented the plan for linking the [MINT](#) tool to the CeQulnt framework. Finally, a discussion in small groups was held to elaborate on experiences, challenges and knowledge exchange with regard to CeQulnt. The presentations can be viewed [here](#).



In the afternoon the ECA-NVAO seminar on Quality Assurance of Cross-Border Higher Education took place with nearly 100 registered participants. Ann Verreth, Vice-Chair of [NVAO](#), chaired the event. The keynote on new developments in cross-border higher education was delivered by Carolyn Campbell from the Observatory on

[Borderless Higher Education](#). Three higher education institutions presented their perspectives on the QA of their international branch campuses: [Ghent University](#) (Kristiaan Versluys), [ESSEC](#) (Christian Koenig), and [Stenden University of Applied Sciences](#) (Dymphi van der Hoeven and Maureen van der Meché). The first results of a survey on QA of CBHE among ECA member agencies were presented by Solange Piszcz (HOCES) and Maciej Markowski (PKA). Fabrizio Trifiro from QAA explained the different approaches to quality assurance of TNE taken around the world.



Axel Aerden (NVAO) moderated a panel discussion among stakeholders (Kristiaan Versluys, Blazhe Todorovski/[ESU](#), Colin Tück/[EQAR](#), Melissa Keizer/Dutch Ministry of Education, Jenneke Lokhoff/EP-Nuffic). The afternoon ended with conclusions by Ann Verreth and Jürgen Petersen ([ZEvA](#)), the [Chair of ECA](#).

For the presentations click [here](#).

A video recording of the QA of CBHE seminar can be viewed on [ECA's YouTube channel](#).

Pictures of the whole day are available [here](#).



On 16 December, and partially on 14 December, there were meetings of ECA members, the Board, working groups and the Certification Group. These meetings took place at the NVAO offices in The Hague. Short presentations of the German and Spanish accreditation systems were given which can be downloaded [here](#).

Dr Laura Rumbley talks about recent developments in internationalisation



On 14 December 2016 at [NVAO](#) in The Hague a webcast was recorded with Dr Laura Rumbley from [Boston College, Center for International Higher Education](#). Dr Rumbley presented her insights and research on new developments in internationalisation of higher education. She also highlights the new concept of intelligent internationalisation. Based on her presentation a conversation between Dr Rumbley and Axel Aerden (NVAO) emerged. The recording is available [here](#).

World Directory of Medical Schools



Authors: Barbora Hrabalová and Sarah Williams Leng

How many medical schools are there in the world? What are the characteristics of these schools, and qualifications of their graduates? These are questions that should be reliably answered to effectively inform research and policy related to international medical education and the health workforce.

It is the mission of the World Directory of Medical Schools (World Directory) to list all of the medical schools in the world, with accurate, up-to-date, and comprehensive information on each school. The World Directory has been developed through a partnership between the [World Federation for Medical Education](#) (WFME) and the [Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research](#) (FAIMER). It provides a comprehensive compilation of the information previously contained in the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) and Avicenna directories.

To read more click [here](#)

First meeting of new ECA Board

On 11th October 2016 the newly composed ECA Board met at the new offices of HCERES in Paris. The minutes and the agenda for future meetings will be sent to the members of ECA.

For the composition of the Board [click here](#)



Jürgen Petersen new Chair of ECA

On 30 June 2016 the ECA members have appointed Jürgen Petersen as their new Chair.



Dr. Jürgen Petersen is Head of the Department of Institutional Accreditation at [ZEvA](#) (Germany).

He was one of the founding members of the association ECA on 15 April 2014. Previously, when ECA was still a project consortium, he was a member of the Management Group which he joined in 2012.

Jürgen Petersen succeeds René-Paul Martin-Denavit ([CTI](#)) who was the Chair of ECA in the past year.

Two new ECA Board members

On 30 June 2016 the ECA members have appointed two new Board members:



François Pernot is Director of the European and International Department, [HCERES](#) (France)



Luis Carlos Velón Sixto is Quality manager and coordinator of international relations, [ACSUG](#) (Spain)

Ann Verreth co-opted as ECA Board member

The [ECA Board](#) has co-opted Ann Verreth ([NVAO](#)) as Board member.

The vacancy emerged after the retirement of Lucien Bollaert.

Ann Verreth was appointed as Vice-Chair of NVAO in January 2016.



She was previously deputy chief of staff and chief of staff of ministerial cabinets in Flanders. From 2007 to 2009 she was Secretary-General of the association of Flemish university colleges (VLHORA).

Ann Verreth was involved in QA and HE issues, and in applied research. She studied Political Sciences at the University of Leuven.

Joint programmes experts trained in Vienna

Thirteen participants from nine countries followed the ECA training “Assessing Joint Programmes” in Vienna. The training focused especially on the [European Approach for](#)

[Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#)

as adopted by the EHEA Ministers in Yerevan in May 2015. As a case study the first accreditation of a joint programme by NVAO following the European Approach was used. The participants received a certificate and are entitled to join [ECA's Experts Exchange Platform \(EEEP\)](#) so that QA agencies can ask them to carry out assessments of joint programmes.



Assessing the Quality of Internationalisation, 5-6 May 2016, Warsaw

Ten participants from four countries followed this ECA training which was facilitated by Axel Aerden ([NVAO](#)) and Maciej Markowski ([PKA](#)). The training prepared participants for the assessment of internationalisation in the framework of the [ECA Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation](#). Panels that carry out these procedures need to have at least one expert who is trained for this job. All participants have received a ECA training certificate. The training certificate allows participants to register themselves in the [ECA Experts Exchange Platform \(EEEP\)](#). QA agencies carrying out assessments of internationalisation may search the EEEP to find suitable experts.



Assessing Joint Programmes, 9-10 May 2016, Cologne

Eight participants from four countries followed this ECA training which was facilitated by Ronny Heintze and Katarina Löbel ([AQAS](#)). The training focused especially on the [European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#) as adopted by the EHEA Ministers in Yerevan in May 2015. As a case study the [accreditation of the European Joint Master's in Strategic Border Management](#) was used. This procedure was carried out by [NVAO](#) according to the ECA framework from the [JOQAR project](#) which provided an important input for the development of the European Approach. The participants received a certificate and are entitled to join [ECA's Experts Exchange Platform \(EEEP\)](#) so that QA agencies can ask them to carry out assessments of joint programmes.



On average the trainings were rated 9 out of 10 points by the participants. If you are interested in one of ECA's trainings then please [indicate this here](#) and you will be informed when the next training is organised.

ACSUCYL becomes new ECA member



[ACSUCYL](#) from the region Castilla y León in Spain was admitted as new member of ECA on 16 December 2016. ACSUCYL is the acronym of Agencia para la Calidad del Sistema Universitario de Castilla y León. The Agency is the legal external assessment body for the university system in Castilla y León and is aimed at the assessment, accreditation and certification of quality at universities and research and higher education institutions in Castilla y León. In addition, ACSUCYL can also collaborate in the processes of assessment, accreditation and certification of universities and higher education institutions outside the Autonomous Region of Castilla y León in the context of the European Higher Education Area.

The activities of assessment, accreditation and certification developed by the Agency, aim at achieving the following general purposes:

- a) To foster the improvement of teaching and research activity and management of universities and research and higher education institutions, encouraging the improvement of competitiveness and economic development of Castilla y León.
- b) To provide adequate information about the university system to public administrations, the productive sector and society in general for making decisions in their areas of action.

The ACSUCYL's mission is to ensure ongoing improvement in higher education and to provide information concerning the work it is conducting such that this may prove useful to all stakeholders. ACSUCYL is included in [EQAR](#) and a full member of [ENQA](#).

ECA welcomes ACSUCYL as its [18th member agency](#).

ACPUA becomes 17th ECA member



[ACPUA](#) from the region Aragon in Spain was admitted as new member of ECA on 30 June 2016. ACPUA is the acronym of Agencia de Calidad y Prospectiva Universitaria de Aragón or in English Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education. At the meeting in Santiago de Compostela ACPUA was represented by the Director Antonio Serrano González.

ACPUA was created by the Aragon Higher Education Act (art. 84) to be an instrument “to promote the improvement of the quality of the Aragon university system”. Following this legal mandate, ACPUA’s activity can be classified in three areas:

- 1) Quality assurance: quality assurance evaluations and reviews in three fields: programmes, institutions and research. Progressively, ACPUA has developed new evaluation tasks within each of them; programme evaluation is the most relevant one.
- 2) Strategic foresight: ACPUA develops different types of reports and studies to support higher education policy decisions upon request of the Aragon Government, as well as research studies on key topics upon the authority’s request.
- 3) Outreach activities: ACPUA supplements its QA and strategic foresight activity through a complementary mission: promoting quality in higher education by organizing seminars, collaborating with other entities through networks, participating in higher education events, etc.

ECA welcomes ACPUA as the [17th member agency](#).

First accreditation of joint programme with European Approach



The bachelor's programme [International Teacher Education for Primary Schools \(ITEps\)](#) provided by Stenden University of Applied Sciences is the first joint programme accredited according to the [European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#). This joint programme has been accredited by NVAO, [click here](#) for the accreditation decision and panel report.

For the presentation at the EQAR Members Dialogue of this innovative accreditation [see here](#).

Bengaluru Statement on Next-Generation Quality Assurance



In October 2016 the Bengaluru Statement 2016 on Next-Generation Quality Assurance of Higher Education: A Shared Vision and Commitment for Fostering Partnership Beyond Borders” was issued. The statement was the culmination of the global summit organised by [NAAC](#) and [APQN](#) in Bengaluru (India). Over 120 delegates including 23 representatives of about 20 countries attended this global summit.

The Bengaluru statement includes a call to enhance actions with regard to mutual recognition of qualifications and accreditation decisions, issues that ECA has been working on for the past decade and would like to discuss further with regional networks. The statement also calls for the development of regional and global databases of recognised accreditation bodies and accredited higher education institutions. The database [Qcrossroads](#) as developed by ECA fits in to this call. ECA’s representative Ronny Heintze from [AQAS](#) (Germany) held a presentation at the conference, including the explanation regarding the ECA [Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation](#).

For more information on the conference and an overview of the presentations click [here](#). The Bengaluru statement 2016 and accompanying media release can be viewed here:

[Bengaluru-statement-2016](#)
[global-media-release-bengaluru-statement-2016](#)

Results of Annual Meeting 2016



On 30 June and 1 July 2016 ECA members held their annual Workshop and General Meeting in Santiago de Compostela. On the first day meetings of the three working groups and the Certification Group took place, followed by the Annual Meeting of ECA members. The new work plans of the different ECA groups were presented. A new [Board](#), [Financial Committee](#) and the [Coordinator/Secretariat](#) were appointed. The [ECA Annual report 2015](#) and the new budgets were approved. ECA members welcomed [ACPUA](#), the agency from the region Aragon in Spain, in their midst. The next ECA events were also agreed: the winter 2016 seminar in The Hague, the summer workshop 2017 in Paris, and the summer 2018 workshop in Ljubljana.

On the second day the EnEO/HEInnovate, [FAIR](#) and IMPACT projects in which ECA is involved, as well as the new Flemish institutional reviews using an innovative appreciate approach, were presented. The presentations can be [viewed here](#).

At the dinner in San Francisco Hotel Monumento the incoming [Chair Jürgen Petersen \(ZEVA\)](#) thanked outgoing chair René-Paul Martin-Denavit ([CTI](#)).



The meeting was hosted by [ACSUG](#) who also organised an excellent social programme. One of the highlights was the visit to the rooftop of the famous Cathedral.



In the evening there were musical events, including a surprise performance of



Luis Velón
(ACSUG)

With gratitude for the great hospitality of our host ACSUG.



ECA becomes member of ProDeJIP



ECA has become constituent member of the Association for the Promotion and the Development of Joint International Programmes in Higher Education (ProDeJIP) during the General Assembly in Leiden on 24 February 2016. A representative of ProDeJIP is member of ECA's [Working Group 1](#). Cooperation between the two associations is mutually seen as beneficial. As ECA has been working for many years on mutual recognition of accreditation of joint programmes it is important to be connected to the providers of joint programmes.

Click [here](#) to visit the new website of ProDeJIP.

Sweden agrees on new QA system



The Swedish Parliament approved a new external QA system for Swedish higher education. The new national quality assurance system should focus on both monitoring outcomes (which is the essence of the current system) and quality development. The Swedish Higher Education Authority ([UKÄ](#)), a member of ECA, has received the mandate for the implementation. To read more click [here](#)

IMO in Sweden accredited by ZEvA



International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Kitack Lim has welcomed Sweden's ongoing support to the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö following a meeting with Ms. Anna Johansson, Sweden's Minister for Infrastructure on 27 January 2016.

The World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden is a postgraduate maritime university founded by IMO, a specialized agency of the United Nations. The Swedish Ministry of Education and Research has recognized WMU as having the authority to grant degrees in Sweden and the WMU's Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programmes in Maritime Affairs have been unconditionally accredited by ECA member agency the Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency of Hanover ([ZEvA](#)).

My first 100 days: Impressions from American Higher Education



On September 1, 2015 I started as professor and director of the Center for International Higher Education (CIHE) at the Lynch School of Education, Boston College. Although the center, the university and the city were not new to me (I was a visiting lecturer in 1995 and a Fulbright scholar in 2006 at Boston College), making a career shift from Europe to the US in many aspects is an adventure. Matters I have been writing about, the international mobility of students and scholars, became practice: visa issues, housing, taxes and other financial arrangements such as

retirement funds, driving licenses and buying a car, all were more complicated than you could imagine, but at the same time, in the end they are or will be solved and that is what matters. If everything would go smoothly, you don't get that confrontation with and adaptation to other cultures and habits, as part of your learning experience.

What does it mean to be a professor and director of a research center at an American, Jesuit research university, like Boston College? Is there really a big difference between European and American higher education in practice? Click [here](#) for the Impressions of Hans de Wit's first 100 days

Joint Quality Initiative: The Origin of the Dublin Descriptors

As the Bologna Process moves forward with new Communiqués, reports and actions taken we should remember that sometimes significant progress is made by a small group which then evolves into something bigger. A good example is the Joint Quality Initiative (JQI) which made an essential contribution to including quality assurance and qualifications frameworks in the Bologna Process. The Dublin Descriptors were a famous outcome of the JQI and are still part of the European and national qualifications frameworks, as well as accreditation frameworks.



Dr. Marlies Leegwater, who worked for many years at the Dutch Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and was also Head of the Bologna Secretariat, has written this [Joint Quality Initiative](#) – the origin of the Dublin descriptors – short history. Together with Noël Vercruysse from the Flemish Department of Education and Nick Harris (former Director of QAA, UK) she was one of the drivers of the JQI and the Bologna Process in its first decade.