

Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹ between Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat (ÖAR) and Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO)

Introduction

The European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA) was founded in 2003 and consisted originally of 12 accreditation organisations from 8 countries. Since then, ECA was enlarged with 3 organisations and 2 countries. As a consequence, there are 15 ECA members from 10 different European countries in 2007.

ECA acts as a project organisation aiming at mutual recognition of each others accreditation decisions. The recognition of qualifications and the mobility of students and graduates would highly benefit from the trust in quality as expressed by mutual recognition of accreditation decisions. By striving towards and fulfilling this aim the ECA partners contribute to the accomplishment of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which includes the important development of national qualifications frameworks in accordance with the overarching European Qualifications Framework.

The partner organisations in ECA realise that their recognition of each others decisions should be based on (earned) trust and thorough mutual understanding of accreditation frameworks, procedures and decision-making. ECA members have made a lot of efforts to reach that trust and mutual understanding. They have committed themselves to common standards and principles, and compared and observed each others frameworks, procedures, and decision-making.²

The ECA partners realise that the effects of this mutual recognition agreement will be highly increased if national governments and recognition authorities would include this agreement in their national policies on the recognition of foreign qualifications.³

¹ In some countries the national legislation enables accreditation organisations to take legally binding accreditation decisions and to accept accreditation decisions of other accreditation organisations as their own. In some other countries this is not the case and mutual recognition may refer to "accreditation results" (the judgements made on the quality) rather than to "accreditation decisions" in a legal sense. It is up to the accreditation organisations to take into account the legal context in their respective countries and to decide whether in a certain agreement it is appropriate to use either "accreditation decisions" or "accreditation results". In both cases what is mutually recognised is the judgement on the quality. This mutual recognition agreement does not include consequences (e.g. funding) that may be connected to accreditation in a given national setting but that do not apply to foreign accreditations.

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³ The signing accreditation organisations will do their part to facilitate the recognition of qualifications, e.g. by disseminating this mutual recognition agreement to national governments and recognition authorities and by participating in the information tool on accredited qualifications.

Preamble

Aiming to contribute to the internationalisation of higher education and to enhance the mobility of students and graduates in Europe;

with the purpose to facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications by informing recognition authorities on the quality of these qualifications;

with the additional purpose of facilitating joint programmes and degrees by eliminating multiple accreditation procedures in different countries and implementing one procedure under supervision of one of the signatory agencies;

convinced that mutual recognition agreements between accreditation organisations enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provide important information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market;

relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

based upon the ECA Agreement of Cooperation (2003), the ECA Code of Good Practice (2004) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2005), the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (2005) and the ECA Principles for Accreditation Procedures regarding Joint Programmes (2007);

realising that the trust building activities leading to mutual recognition have increased mutual understanding, good practices and the validity of the work of the accreditation organisations;

taking into account the positive external evaluation results of the signing agencies and the results from in-depth comparisons and observations of their accreditation procedures and standards;

acknowledging the variety of national higher education systems and accepting the existence of different legal prerequisites for accreditation procedures, standards and decisions.

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The signing accreditation organisations agree to regard their accreditation procedures, standards and results as free of significant differences;

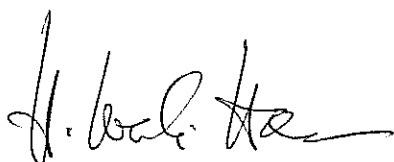
and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisation;

on the condition that the signing agencies continue to exchange information about their accreditation systems on a regular basis. Substantial changes of the accreditation systems should be communicated without delay.

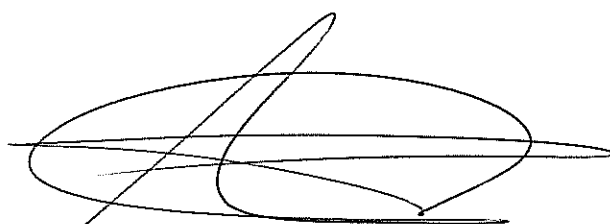
The signing accreditation organisations agree to give each other access to all relevant documents relating to the accreditation results. Documents that are not published must be treated confidentially.

This agreement is valid for 3 years and can be extended after re-evaluation of the preset conditions.

Any of the signing accreditation organisations may denounce this agreement by written notification to the other party at any time. The written notification must include the reasons for and the date of the termination of this agreement.



Univ. Prof. Dr. Hannelore Weck-Hannemann
(Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat)



Dr. Karl Dittrich
(Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator



Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat



nederlands - vlaamse accreditatieorganisatie

**Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹
between Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat (ÖAR)
and Nasionalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen (NOKUT)**

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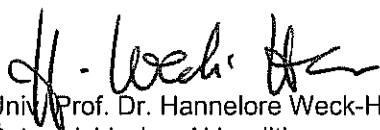
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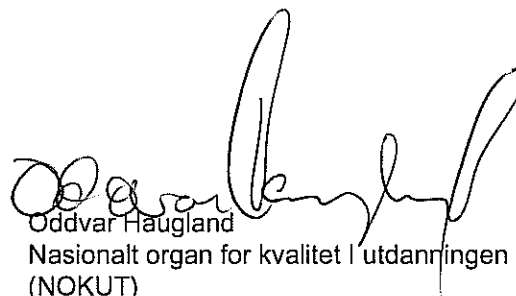
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Univ.-Prof. Dr. Hannelore Weck-Hannemann
Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat (ÖAR)



Oddvar Haugland
Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen
(NOKUT)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator

ÖAR

Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat

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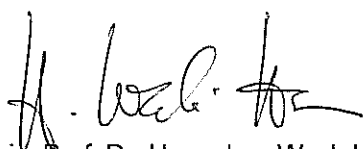
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This agreement is valid for 3 years and can be extended after re-evaluation of the preset conditions.

This agreement comes into force when both parties have successfully undergone an external review according to the European Standards and Guidelines and to the ECA Code of Good Practice.

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Univ. Prof. Dr. Hannelore Weck-Hannemann
Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat (ÖAR)



Professor Zbigniew Marciniak
Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
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Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna

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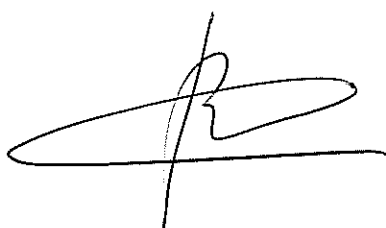
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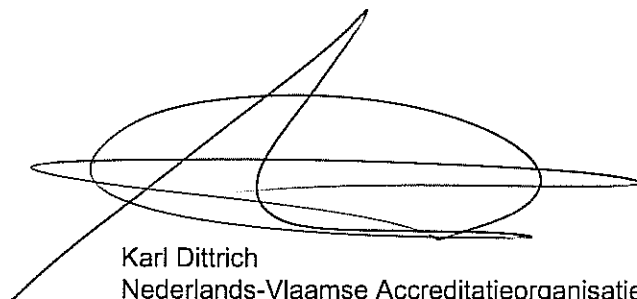
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Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)



Karl Dittrich
Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO)

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Cti
Commission
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 **nva**
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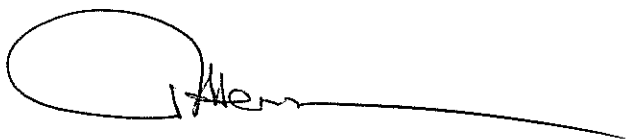
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Dr. Rolf Heusser
Organ für Akkreditierung und
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Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator
- Swiss University Conference
- State Secretary for Education and Research, Switzerland

ÖAR

Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat

o a q

organ für akkreditierung und qualitätssicherung
der schweizerischen hochschulen

Clarification by CTI

- CTI accreditations refer to programme accreditations (Ingénieur diplômé – master grade) in higher education in engineering.
 - Accordingly, CTI accreditation decisions refer to specific criteria as indicated below.
- For the evaluation and accreditation of engineering programmes, specific criteria and procedures may be formulated according to "References and Orientations – 2006":

Criteria

The higher education institutions, in a global and complex context have to adapt and innovate, as long as they comply with these four essential components of engineering education.

- A strong and broad basis in fundamental sciences in order to guarantee analytical competences and the capacity for adjusting in the long term the demanding evolutions of the engineering and management activities.
- The engineering sciences provide a guarantee of efficiency and short term adaptation to a professional activity (experience and innovation).
- Business culture and economic, social, human, environmental ethics awareness (partnerships of the higher education institutions with the profession, involvement of professionals in training, internships in industry, entrepreneurship,...).
- Communication skills and international awareness (international partnerships, intercultural experiences, language skills, joint diploma, ..).

Fulfilment of these criteria is a condition for good employability in engineering activities.

The education is based on a coherent curriculum of 300 ECTS awarded in higher education.

Procedure

- At least one representative of the engineering profession or of the industry is member of the external panel.



European consortium for accreditation

Letter of intent

**between Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)
and Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)**

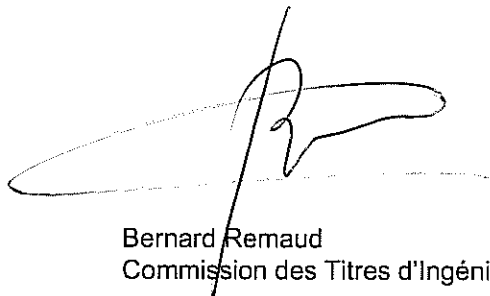
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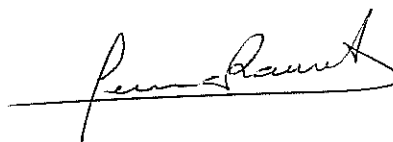
relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

the signing accreditation organisations agree to complete their work on the in-depth comparison of the accreditation systems within the next six months;

with the intent to have a strong basis to sign an agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results on the occasion of the next plenary ECA meeting in 2008.



Bernard Remaud
Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)



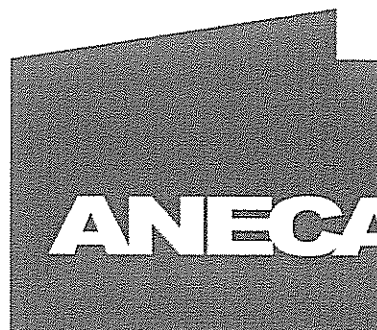
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ECA acts as a project organisation aiming at mutual recognition of each others accreditation decisions. The recognition of qualifications and the mobility of students and graduates would highly benefit from the trust in quality as expressed by mutual recognition of accreditation decisions. By striving towards and fulfilling this aim the ECA partners contribute to the accomplishment of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which includes the important development of national qualifications frameworks in accordance with the overarching European Qualifications Framework.

The partner organisations in ECA realise that their recognition of each others decisions should be based on (earned) trust and thorough mutual understanding of accreditation frameworks, procedures and decision-making. ECA members have made a lot of efforts to reach that trust and mutual understanding. They have committed themselves to common standards and principles, and compared and observed each others frameworks, procedures, and decision-making.²

The ECA partners realise that the effects of this mutual recognition agreement will be highly increased if national governments and recognition authorities would include this agreement in their national policies on the recognition of foreign qualifications.³

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Preamble

Aiming to contribute to the internationalisation of higher education and to enhance the mobility of students and graduates in Europe;

with the purpose to facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications by informing recognition authorities on the quality of these qualifications;

with the additional purpose of facilitating joint programmes and degrees by eliminating multiple accreditation procedures in different countries and implementing one procedure under supervision of one of the signatory agencies;

convinced that mutual recognition agreements between accreditation organisations enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provide important information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market;

relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

based upon the ECA Agreement of Cooperation (2003), the ECA Code of Good Practice (2004) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2005), the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (2005) and the ECA Principles for Accreditation Procedures regarding Joint Programmes (2007);

realising that the trust building activities leading to mutual recognition have increased mutual understanding, good practices and the validity of the work of the accreditation organisations;

taking into account the positive external evaluation results of the signing agencies and the results from in-depth comparisons and observations of their accreditation procedures and standards;

acknowledging the variety of national higher education systems and accepting the existence of different legal prerequisites for accreditation procedures, standards and decisions.

Agreement

The signing accreditation organisations agree to regard their accreditation procedures, standards and results as free of significant differences;

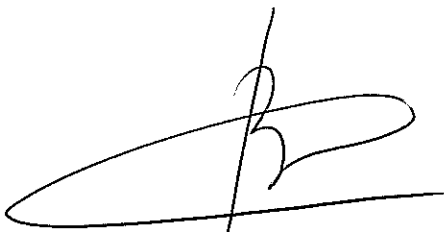
and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisation;

on the condition that the signing agencies continue to exchange information about their accreditation systems on a regular basis. Substantial changes of the accreditation systems should be communicated without delay.

The signing accreditation organisations agree to give each other access to all relevant documents relating to the accreditation results. Documents that are not published must be treated confidentially.

This agreement is valid for 3 years and can be extended after re-evaluation of the preset conditions.

Any of the signing accreditation organisations may denounce this agreement by written notification to the other party at any time. The written notification must include the reasons for and the date of the termination of this agreement.



Bernard Remaud
Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)



Rolf Heusser
Organ für Akkreditierung und
Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen
Hochschulen (OAQ)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator
- Swiss University Conference
- State Secretary for Education and Research, Switzerland

Cti
Commission
des Titres d'Ingénieur

o a q
organ für akkreditierung und qualitätssicherung
der schweizerischen hochschulen

Clarification by CTI

- CTI accreditations refer to programme accreditations (Ingénieur diplômé – master grade) in higher education in engineering.
 - Accordingly, CTI accreditation results refer to specific criteria as indicated below.
- For the evaluation and accreditation of engineering programmes, specific criteria and procedures may be formulated according to “References and Orientations – 2006”:

Criteria

The higher education institutions, in a global and complex context have to adapt and innovate, as long as they comply with these four essential components of engineering education.

- A strong and broad basis in fundamental sciences in order to guarantee analytical competences and the capacity for adjusting in the long term the demanding evolutions of the engineering and management activities.
- The engineering sciences provide a guarantee of efficiency and short term adaptation to a professional activity (experience and innovation).
- Business culture and economic, social, human, environmental ethics awareness (partnerships of the higher education institutions with the profession, involvement of professionals in training, internships in industry, entrepreneurship,...).
- Communication skills and international awareness (international partnerships, intercultural experiences, language skills, joint diploma, ..).

Fulfilment of these criteria is a condition for good employability in engineering activities.

The education is based on a coherent curriculum of 300 ECTS awarded in higher education.

Procedure

- At least one representative of the engineering profession or of the industry is member of the external panel.

**Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹
between Fachhochschulrat (FHR), Austria
and Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO),
The Netherlands/Flanders**

Introduction

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Agreement

The signing accreditation organisations agree to regard their accreditation procedures, standards and results as free of significant differences;

and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisation;

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Dr. Kurt Sohm
Fachhochschulrat (FHR)



Dr. Karl Dittrich
Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie
(NVAO)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator
- Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Austria



European Consortium for Accreditation

**Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹
between Fachhochschulrat (FHR), Austria
and Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen (NOKUT), Norway**

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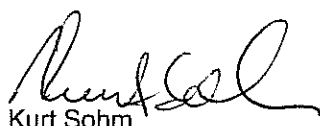
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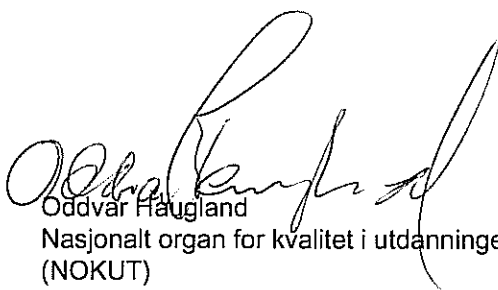
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Fachhochschulrat (FHR)



Oddvar Haugland
Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen
(NOKUT)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator
- Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Austria

**Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹
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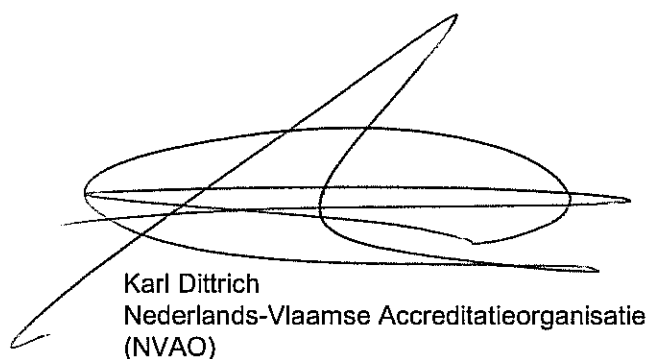
on the condition that the external evaluation of NOKUT according to the ECA Code of Good Practice will be positive (to be known in the first half of 2008);

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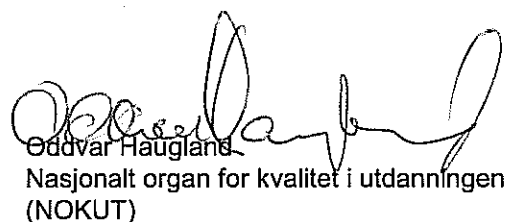
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Karl Dittrich
Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie
(NVAO)



Oddvar Haugland
Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen
(NOKUT)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator

Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation decisions¹ between Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO) and Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA)

Introduction

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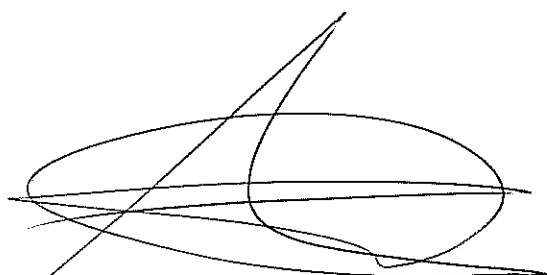
on the condition that the external evaluation of PKA according to the ECA Code of Good Practice will be positive (to be known in 2008);

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Dr. Karl Dittrich
Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie
(NVAO)



Professor Zbigniew Marciniak
Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator

**Letter of intent
between Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO)
and Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)**

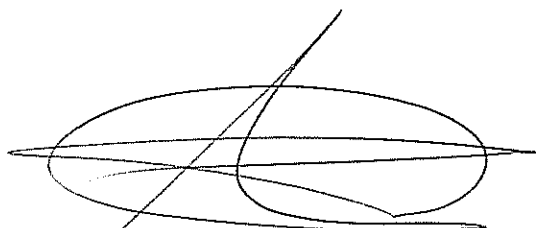
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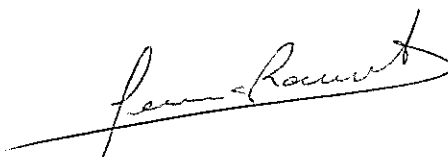
relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

the signing accreditation organisations agree to complete their work on the in-depth comparison and observations of the accreditation systems;

with the intent to have a strong basis to sign an agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results when the comparison and observations have led to positive outcomes.



Karl Dittrich
Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie
(NVAO)



Gemma Rauret
Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad
y Acreditación (ANECA)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator

**Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹
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³ The signing accreditation organisations will do their part to facilitate the recognition of qualifications, e.g. by disseminating this mutual recognition agreement to national governments and recognition authorities and by participating in the information tool on accredited qualifications.

Preamble

Aiming to contribute to the internationalisation of higher education and to enhance the mobility of students and graduates in Europe;

with the purpose to facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications by informing recognition authorities on the quality of these qualifications;

with the additional purpose of facilitating joint programmes and degrees by eliminating multiple accreditation procedures in different countries and implementing one procedure under supervision of one of the signatory agencies;

convinced that mutual recognition agreements between accreditation organisations enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provide important information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market;

relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

based upon the ECA Agreement of Cooperation (2003), the ECA Code of Good Practice (2004) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2005), the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (2005) and the ECA Principles for Accreditation Procedures regarding Joint Programmes (2007);

realising that the trust building activities leading to mutual recognition have increased mutual understanding, good practices and the validity of the work of the accreditation organisations;

taking into account the positive external evaluation results of the signing agencies and the results from in-depth comparisons and observations of their accreditation procedures and standards;

acknowledging the variety of national higher education systems and accepting the existence of different legal prerequisites for accreditation procedures, standards and decisions.

Agreement

The signing accreditation organisations agree to regard their accreditation procedures, standards and results as free of significant differences;

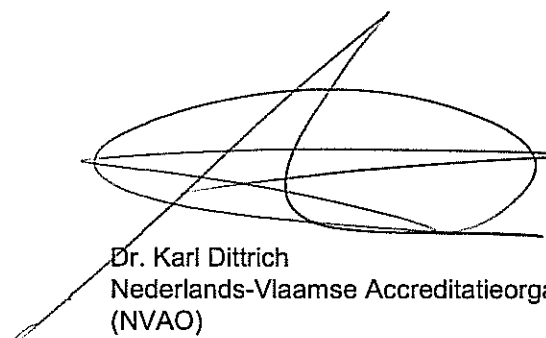

and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisation;

on the condition that the signing agencies continue to exchange information about their accreditation systems on a regular basis. Substantial changes of the accreditation systems should be communicated without delay.

The signing accreditation organisations agree to give each other access to all relevant documents relating to the accreditation results. Documents that are not published must be treated confidentially.

This agreement is valid for 3 years and can be extended after re-evaluation of the preset conditions.

Any of the signing accreditation organisations may denounce this agreement by written notification to the other party at any time. The written notification must include the reasons for and the date of the termination of this agreement.

 <p>Dr. Karl Dittrich Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO)</p>	 <p>Dr. Rolf Heusser Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen Hochschulen (OAQ)</p>
--	--

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator
- Swiss University Conference
- State Secretary for Education and Research, Switzerland



European Consortium for Accreditation

Letter of intent

**between Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen (NOKUT)
and Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen
Hochschulen (OAQ)**

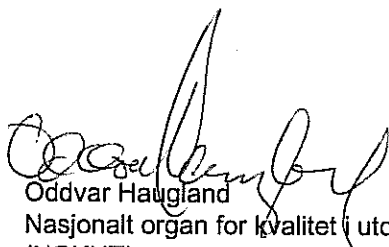
Based upon the ECA Agreement of Cooperation (2003), the ECA Code of Good Practice (2004) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2005), the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (2005) and the ECA Principles for Accreditation Procedures regarding Joint Programmes (2007);

convinced that mutual recognition agreements between accreditation organisations enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provide important information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market;

relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

the signing accreditation organisations agree to complete their work on the in-depth comparison of the accreditation systems within the next six months;

with the intent to have a strong basis to sign an agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results on the occasion of the next plenary ECA meeting in 2008.



Oddvar Haugland
Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen
(NOKUT)



Rolf Heusser
Organ für Akkreditierung und
Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen
Hochschulen (OAQ)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator



European Consortium for Accreditation

Letter of intent

**between Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA)
and Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen
Hochschulen (OAQ)**

Based upon the ECA Agreement of Cooperation (2003), the ECA Code of Good Practice (2004) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2005), the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (2005) and the ECA Principles for Accreditation Procedures regarding Joint Programmes (2007);

convinced that mutual recognition agreements between accreditation organisations enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provide important information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market;

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Professor Zbigniew Marciniak
Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA)

Rolf Heusser
Organ für Akkreditierung und
Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen
Hochschulen (OAQ)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator



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Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna

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o a a

organ für akkreditierung und qualitätssicherung
der schweizerischen hochschulen

**Agreement on mutual recognition of accreditation results¹
between Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen
Hochschulen (OAQ)
and Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)**

Introduction

The European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA) was founded in 2003 and consisted originally of 12 accreditation organisations from 8 countries. Since then, ECA was enlarged with 3 organisations and 2 countries. As a consequence, there are 15 ECA members from 10 different European countries in 2007.

ECA acts as a project organisation aiming at mutual recognition of each others accreditation decisions. The recognition of qualifications and the mobility of students and graduates would highly benefit from the trust in quality as expressed by mutual recognition of accreditation decisions. By striving towards and fulfilling this aim the ECA partners contribute to the accomplishment of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which includes the important development of national qualifications frameworks in accordance with the overarching European Qualifications Framework.

The partner organisations in ECA realise that their recognition of each others decisions should be based on (earned) trust and thorough mutual understanding of accreditation frameworks, procedures and decision-making. ECA members have made a lot of efforts to reach that trust and mutual understanding. They have committed themselves to common standards and principles, and compared and observed each others frameworks, procedures, and decision-making.²

The ECA partners realise that the effects of this mutual recognition agreement will be highly increased if national governments and recognition authorities would include this agreement in their national policies on the recognition of foreign qualifications.³

¹ In some countries the national legislation enables accreditation organisations to take legally binding accreditation decisions and to accept accreditation decisions of other accreditation organisations as their own. In some other countries this is not the case and mutual recognition may refer to "accreditation results" (the judgements made on the quality) rather than to "accreditation decisions" in a legal sense. It is up to the accreditation organisations to take into account the legal context in their respective countries and to decide whether in a certain agreement it is appropriate to use either "accreditation decisions" or "accreditation results". In both cases what is mutually recognised is the judgement on the quality. This mutual recognition agreement does not include consequences (e.g. funding) that may be connected to accreditation in a given national setting but that do not apply to foreign accreditations.

² An overview of the ECA approach towards mutual recognition and the results achieved are included in the ECA report for the London Ministerial conference and can be downloaded from:
<http://www.eaconsortium.net/index.php?section=content&id=20>

³ The signing accreditation organisations will do their part to facilitate the recognition of qualifications, e.g. by disseminating this mutual recognition agreement to national governments and recognition authorities and by participating in the information tool on accredited qualifications.

Preamble

Aiming to contribute to the internationalisation of higher education and to enhance the mobility of students and graduates in Europe;

with the purpose to facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications by informing recognition authorities on the quality of these qualifications;

with the additional purpose of facilitating joint programmes and degrees by eliminating multiple accreditation procedures in different countries and implementing one procedure under supervision of one of the signatory agencies;

convinced that mutual recognition agreements between accreditation organisations enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provide important information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market;

relying on the work of ECA since 2003 to build up mutual trust between the member organisations;

based upon the ECA Agreement of Cooperation (2003), the ECA Code of Good Practice (2004) and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (2005), the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (2005) and the ECA Principles for Accreditation Procedures regarding Joint Programmes (2007);

realising that the trust building activities leading to mutual recognition have increased mutual understanding, good practices and the validity of the work of the accreditation organisations;

taking into account the positive external evaluation results of the signing agencies and the results from in-depth comparisons and observations of their accreditation procedures and standards;

acknowledging the variety of national higher education systems and accepting the existence of different legal prerequisites for accreditation procedures, standards and decisions.

Agreement

The signing accreditation organisations agree to regard their accreditation procedures, standards and results as free of significant differences;

and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisation;

on the condition that the signing agencies continue to exchange information about their accreditation systems on a regular basis. Substantial changes of the accreditation systems should be communicated without delay.

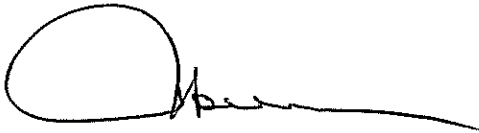
The signing accreditation organisations agree to give each other access to all relevant documents relating to the accreditation results. Documents that are not published must be treated confidentially.

The two signing agencies acknowledge the different national contexts of their accreditation systems.

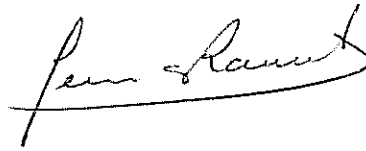
This agreement enters into force when the two agencies have successfully completed the in depth comparison of their accreditation systems, according to the procedure specified within the TE@M Project of ECA. This comparison is foreseen to be accomplished in the first half of 2008.

This agreement is valid for 3 years and can be extended after re-evaluation of the preset conditions.

Any of the signing accreditation organisations may denounce this agreement by written notification to the other party at any time. The written notification must include the reasons for and the date of the termination of this agreement.



Rolf Heusser
Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der
Schweizerischen Hochschulen (OAQ)



Gemma Rauret
Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la
Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)

Signed on: 10th December 2007 in Barcelona (Spain).

Cc:

- National and recognition authorities
- ECA Coordinator
- Swiss University Conference
- State Secretary for Education and Research, Switzerland

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organ für akkreditierung und qualitätssicherung
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