



Conclusions of the Eleventh Workshop of the European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA)

Kraków, 5th June 2008

Approved by the ECA Management Group on October 27, 2008

1. Introduction

The eleventh workshop of the European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA) was held in Kraków on 5th June 2008. ECA members enjoyed the hospitality of Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA). This one-day ECA Workshop was a special occasion since it marked the establishment of the second phase of ECA. The day started with official welcome speeches on behalf of the Secretary of State, by the Deputy Mayor of Kraków Dr. Kazimierz Bujakowski, by the President of PKA Dr. hab. Marek Rocki, and by the Chairman of ECA Dr. Rolf Heusser.

2. Organisational issues

The Agreement of Cooperation and the Explanatory Note were discussed, accepted and the Agreement was formally signed by 13 ECA members. New members are Danmarks Evalueringsinstitut (EVA) from Denmark and the Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik e. V. (ASIIN) from Germany (ASIIN signed after the Workshop due to unforeseen circumstances). After Kraków the Akkreditierungsrat from Germany and the Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen e.V. (AQAS) from Germany signed, thereby bringing the total number of ECA members to 15.

The Conclusions of Barcelona were approved.

The Consortium accepted the recommendation of the Management group to include on the ECA website that an external review has shown that NOKUT is in compliance with the ECA Code of Good Practice.

The ECA budget for 2008 was accepted with a 2008 membership fee of 3,000 euro. Each year would have to be seen whether the fee should be increased or decreased, taking into account both costs and reserves. The budget would be revised with the inclusion of the accepted 2008 membership fee and an agreement on the coordination costs (which was later set at 15,000 euro). The revised budget would be approved by the Management group before sending it to ECA members.

The Consortium agreed that HSV could not get an observer status as an organisation but that this was possible for Clas-Uno Frykholm as an individual (arrangements to be made by the Management group). Nick Harris would also be invited as an expert to WG 1 because of his knowledge and significant contributions to ECA, particularly

with regard to joint programmes. Invitations for other experts and for stakeholders to ECA meetings would be up to the chairs of the Working groups and the Management group.

NVAO offered to host the next ECA seminar in The Hague in December 2008. This offer was accepted by the Consortium.

The Consortium appointed the Management group with the following composition:

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Rolf Heusser	OAQ
<i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	
Karl Dittrich	NVAO
<i>Members</i>	
Tove Blytt-Holmen	NOKUT
Elisabeth Fiorioli	AAC
Rainer Künzel	ZEvA
Gemma Rauret	ANECA
Mieczyslaw Socha	PKA
<i>Coordinator</i>	
Mark Frederiks	NVAO

It was also agreed that the Minutes of the new Management group meetings would be actively distributed to ECA members (and not only placed on the members website as before).

3. Working groups

It was agreed that the Working groups should try to appoint chairs who are also in the Management group. The following names for Working groups and chairpersons were accepted:

- Working group 1 “Mutual recognition”. Chair: Elisabeth Fiorioli.
- Working group 2 “Institutional accreditation and audits”. Chair: Karl Dittrich.
- Working group 3 “Qrossroads and information strategies”. Chair: Mark Frederiks
- Working group 4 “Mutual learning and best practices”. Chair: Gemma Rauret.

The parallel and plenary discussions of the Working groups should be taken as input for the ECA Work plan 2008-2009. This revised Work plan would be discussed at the next meeting of the Management group and then distributed to ECA members.

During the plenary session it was also agreed that ECA should consider to send a message (e.g. on mutual recognition of joint programmes and Qrossroads) to the conference of the Ministers in Leuven in April 2009. This would have to be done before the end of the year. The Management group should take the lead in drafting a proposal.