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The management of the European Consortium for
Accreditation in higher education
Attn.: Mr. M. Frederiks
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Nederlands - Vlaamse Accreditatie Organisatie	
Registratienummer	20095455
Datum Binnenkomst	18 JUN 2009
Archiefcode	221
Dossiernummer	20070946
Behandelaar	MF
CC ter informatie	AV 09 RD

The Hague, 18 June 2009

Dear Mr. Frederiks,

Na behandeling kunnen de kopieën vernietigd worden.

We hereby confirm that we agree to the inclusion of the below auditor's report in the 'Other information' accompanying the annual report and financial statements. The annual report and financial statements should be issued in accordance with the final draft presented to us, of which an initialled copy is enclosed.

"To: The management of the European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education

Auditor's report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements 2008 of the European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education, The Hague, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes.

Management's responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with principles selected and disclosed by the entity. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law. This law requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order

The Hague, 18 June 2009

to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements 2008 of the European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education are prepared, in all material aspects, in accordance with principles selected and disclosed by the entity, as defined in the notes of the financial statements.

The Hague, 10 June 2009

KPMG ACCOUNTANTS N.V.

R.R.J. Smeets RA"

If you present the Annual report and the auditor's report on the internet, you should ensure that the Annual report is properly separated from other information on the internet site. Separation can be achieved, for example, by presenting the Annual report in an unchangeable format, stored as a separate file or by issuing a warning if the reader switches from the financial statements ("you are leaving the secured zone of the audited Annual report").

A copy of the Annual report should be signed by management and be presented to the participants. We would like to receive a copy of the undersigned Annual report and a copy of the minutes of the General Meeting of Participants.

We will be happy to provide any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

KPMG ACCOUNTANTS N.V.

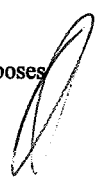
R.R.J. Smeets RA



Enclosure(s):

Annual Report 2008

Initials for identification purposes





ECA

**EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR ACCREDITATION
IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Hague – The Netherlands

Annual Report, 31 December 2008



KPMG Audit
Document to which our report dated

10 JUN 2009

also refers.
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Annual Report 31 December 2008

Financial statements

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2008
(after appropriation of net result)

	31-12-2008		31-12-2007	
	€	€	€	€
Currents assets				
Accounts receivable		15.000		-
Other current assets:		153		386
Cash at bank		21.592		34.491
Total assets		<u>36.745</u>		<u>34.877</u>
Equity		26.273		19.010
Current liabilities				
Accounts Payable	4.500		12.324	
NVAO	<u>5.972</u>		<u>3.543</u>	
		10.472		15.867
Total liabilities		<u>36.745</u>		<u>34.877</u>



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Profit and loss account 2008

	outcome 2008 €	budget 2008 €	outcome 2007 €
Income			
Contribution	45.000	45.000	32.000
Other	957	500	1.884
Total income	<u>45.957</u>	<u>45.500</u>	<u>33.884</u>
Expenses			
Cost of Coordination	15.000	15.000	21.000
Information and communication	4.694	6.000	984
Meetings Management and Working groups	2.199	4.500	4.252
Contributions workshops	7.961	9.000	22.504
Travel expenses	5.925	6.000	10.644
Other	2.915	4.000	3.190
Total expenses	<u>38.694</u>	<u>44.500</u>	<u>62.574</u>
Net result	<u>7.263</u>	<u>1.000</u>	<u>(28.690)</u>



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Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1. About ECA

The European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA) has been established in Cordoba in November 2003 and renewed in Kraków in June 2008. The first activities with financial impact on the ECA budget took place in 2004. The aim of the Consortium is threefold:

- to achieve mutual recognition of accreditation and quality assurance decisions; to enhance the conditions for such mutual recognition, especially for joint programmes
- to provide a platform for mutual learning and disseminating experiences with accreditation and accreditation-like practices
- to provide transparent information on quality and to facilitate the internationalisation of institutions and students.

The members of ECA believe that mutual recognition of accreditation decisions will contribute to the recognition of qualifications and the mobility of students in Europe. It will also make life easier for institutions and programmes operating across borders. When the mutual recognition agreements will be established institutions only need to apply for accreditation in one of the ECA member countries instead of obtaining accreditation in each country separately. Thus, by undertaking the necessary activities for mutual recognition ECA contributes to the achievement of the European Higher Education Area. The consortium will also work to provide transparent information on quality and to support the internationalisation of institutions and students. In addition, the organisations in ECA want to learn from each other and promote good practices in accreditation.

The organisations participating in ECA meet once year in a plenary general meeting. There will also be annual seminars or conferences with a special theme and participation of stakeholders such as institutions, students, recognition bodies, government representatives and employers.

The Consortium is a project organisation with the legal seat of the secretariat in The Hague, the Netherlands.

2. Termination of current ECA Agreement of Cooperation

The Agreement of Cooperation between member agencies on which ECA is based ends on 31 December 2011. However, the compilation of the annual accounts 2008 is based on the principle of going concern.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Principles

A. Basis of Preparation

These financial statements, which are expressed in Euro's, are prepared in accordance with accounting principles mentioned below.

As from 2008 invoices received related to the following year and which have not been paid yet in the current year are presented off-balance. Due to this change in principles the figures of the previous year concerning "other current assets" and "accounts payable" have been changed for comparison purposes.

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- B. **Assets**
Assets are stated at nominal value net of a provision for doubtful debts.
- C. **Cash at bank**
Cash at bank are at the disposal of the consortium and are interest bearing at prevailing market rates.
- D. **Current liabilities**
Current liabilities are stated at nominal value.
- E. **Income and expenses recognition**
Income and expenses are accounted for in the period to which they relate.



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Notes to the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008

1 Current Assets

The current assets comprise of the accounts receivable, the interest receivable and cash at bank.

2 Reserves

Statement of Movements

	2008	2007
	€	€
As at January 1	19.010	47.700
Net result reporting year	7.263	(28.690)
As at December 31	26.273	19.010

3 Current Liabilities

The current liabilities comprise accounts payable and an amount due to the NVAO.

Notes to the profit and loss account 2008

4 Income

In 2008 a contribution of € 3.000 was invoiced to:

1. Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat (ÖAR), Austria
2. Fachhochschulrat, Austria
3. Danmarks Evalueringsinstitut (EVA), Denmark
4. Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs (CTI), France
5. Stiftung zur Akkreditierung von Studiengängen in Deutschland (AR), Germany
6. Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales (AHPGS), Germany
7. Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen (AQAS), Germany
8. Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik (ASIIN), Germany
9. Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Germany
10. Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur (ZEVA), Germany
11. Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO), the Netherlands and Flanders
12. Nasjonalt organ for kvalitet i utdanningen (NOKUT), Norway
13. Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna (PKA), Poland
14. Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA), Spain
15. Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen Hochschulen (OAQ), Switzerland

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5. Expenses

Cost of coordination

	outcome 2008	budget 2008	outcome 2007
	€	€	€
Coordination: NVAO	14.000	14.000	20.000
Secretarial costs	1.000	1.000	1.000
Total	15.000	15.000	21.000

The coordinator/treasurer:

The Coordinator:

- Prepares and convenes the meetings of the Consortium and the Management Group
- Prepares the reports and publications of ECA, and administers the websites
- Prepares the financial statements; administers the finances; collects the annual subscriptions and any other financial contributions to the activities of ECA
- Supports the Management Group and encourages the Working Groups.

Information and communication

	outcome 2008	budget 2008	outcome 2007
	€	€	€
Website	4.182	5.000	710
Logo, letters, envelopes, etc.	512	1.000	274
Total	4.694	6.000	984

Meetings management and working groups

	outcome 2008	budget 2008	outcome 2007
	€	€	€
Management meetings	1.985	4.000	3.652
Working groups	214	500	600
Total	2.199	4.500	4.252



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Contribution workshops

In June 2008, the general meeting was held in Krakow for which a maximum contribution of 6,000 euro was allocated. In December 2008, the seminar was held in The Hague for which a maximum contribution of 3,000 euro was allocated.

Travel expenses

These are the travel expenses of the coordinator, the chairperson and experts.

Other

These costs comprise the affiliated membership of ENQA and the costs of the auditor.

On behalf of the management group: 10 June 2009

Rolf Heusser (OAQ), Chairperson



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Other information

Profit Appropriation

The net result is added to the reserves.

Auditor's report

To: The management of the European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education:

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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

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The Hague, 10 June 2009

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