

**Agreement of Co-Operation between the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA)
and the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in
Higher Education (CEEN)**

The European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) and the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEEN);

Convinced that international co-operation is essential to fulfil the aims of the European Higher Education Area;

Convinced that Collaboration between networks is a vital element in the establishment of mutual trust among Quality Assurance and Accreditation agencies in Europe;

Convinced of the importance of mutual recognition of accreditation decisions for the purpose of increasing mobility of staff and student;

Recognising that ECA and CEEN share common functions and objectives;

Agree to

Enter a formal Co-operation with the aim to understand and to work towards the acceptance of the accreditation procedures of the respective member agencies.

The aim shall be fulfilled through the promotion of mutual understanding between the two networks and the encouragement of mutual trust among the member agencies of ECA and CEEN.

To achieve these aims, the following activities shall be undertaken:

- Exchange of expertise, information and documentation
- Development of common tools and guidelines in order to ensure the equality of procedures
- Invitation of representatives of ECA and CEEN to the respective meetings and working groups
- Promotion of collaboration between the respective member agencies (e.g. mutual invitation to quality assessments, cooperation projects)

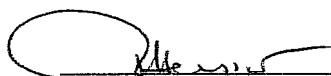
This agreement constitutes an expression of willingness, the object of which is to promote a mutually beneficial bilateral relationship.

Amendments to this agreement must be adopted by both parties.

This agreement may be discontinued unilaterally by either party with 90 days prior notice.

On behalf of the European Consortium
of Accreditation

On behalf of the Network of Central and Eastern
European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher
Education



Rolf Heusser, ECA Chairman



Pavol Navrat, CEE Network chairman

20 June 2006