



The European Consortium for
Accreditation in Higher Education



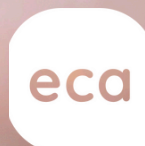
ECA NEWSLETTER



WE WISH YOU A

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



EDITORIAL

Dear members and observers,

As we stand on the threshold of another year, let us wrap up on some of the highlights of 2024.

During the first months of 2024, the Board team worked on the development of the new strategy building on the contributions of ECA members. Eventually the new strategy was approved in the General Assembly held in June. With the key priorities of the ECA strategy in mind we have continued during the year with two trainings regarding the assessment of Joint programmes following the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (May in Cologne and October in Stockholm) and a new training regarding European Higher Education for Entry-Level Quality Assurance Professionals (June in Malta).

In addition, the face to face seminars fostered very engaging discussions about topics as Artificial Intelligence and Student engagement.

With a big thank you to all the members for your contributions and especially to our fellow board colleagues, please receive our warmest wishes for the new year, filled with health, happiness, and success.

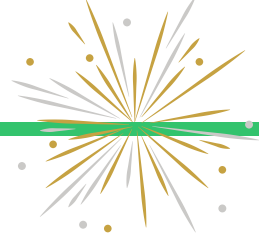
Looking forward to what 2025 brings!

Eva Fernández de Labastida
ECA Chair

Solange Pisarz
ECA Vice-Chair



NEWS FROM ECA



A Successful Year Captured in Pictures

By ECA



Highlights from Seminar and Training in Stockholm

By ECA



On October 7, our members and observers gathered in Stockholm for an engaging seminar hosted by UKÄ.

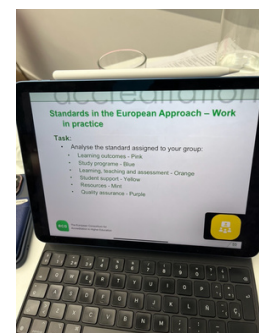
The event began with a presentation on student influence at the national level, its representation within universities, and how UKÄ incorporates the student perspective into its activities. This insightful session was led by **Elsa Berlin** from the Swedish National Union of Students and **Ali Al-Soufi** from UKÄ, offering participants valuable perspectives on fostering student engagement.

The seminar's diverse program included working group and general meetings, as well as a standout lecture by **Professor Torgny Roxå** from Lund University. Drawing on 35 years of experience in academic development, Professor Roxå delivered an inspiring presentation on advancing student engagement in higher education. He delved into shifts in teaching cultures, the significance of strong networks and microcultures, and the critical role of student evaluations in enhancing teaching quality.

"There may be different opinions on how to define good teaching, but only students can truly assess it. Teachers who continuously develop provide better teaching," emphasized Professor Roxå, leaving attendees with thoughtful insights and actionable ideas to strengthen student engagement in their institutions.

As addition to Member's Seminar, on 8 and 9 October UKÄ hosted a training on the **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**.

The training gathered 23 very engaged participants who had the opportunity to learn more about joint programmes and how they are assessed following the European Approach, focusing on the specific standards and procedure. The training held lively discussions and addressed the challenges of assessing joint programmes from the perspectives of institutions and quality assurance agencies.



Student-Centred Learning conference



By ECA

Unibasq organized a conference together with the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca (UPSA) on the framework of Unibasq's coordinated and ECA funded project regarding Student-Centred Learning and the way quality assurance agencies are addressing it in their reviews.

The conference took place on 24 September 2024, hosted by the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca (Spain), and with the perspectives of different stakeholders: students, academics and QA professionals.

After the opening, the conference began with a talk by Professor Sabine Hoidn from the University of St. Gallen, entitled 'Student-centred learning and teaching: Beyond student-centred classrooms'. Afterwards, Professor Juan Medina Contreras, director of the UPSA's own teaching centre, spoke on 'The methodological online-learning framework of the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca'.

This was followed by a round table on 'Addressing SCL: perspectives from the stakeholders', with the participation of Tamara Ciobanu (ESU), Lars Pedersen (Danish Accreditation Institution), Eva Fernández de Labastida (Unibasq), Sabine Hoidn (University of St. Gallen) and Juan Medina Contreras (UPSA).



NEWS FROM ECA MEMBERS

Galicia-Argentina University Education Meeting in Buenos Aires

By Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (ASCUG)

Within the framework of the European Approach, Joint Programs and Internationalization, a meeting organized by **ACSUG in coordination with CONEAU** took place in Buenos Aires on 12-15 November 2025.

The meeting was attended by the **Galician Regional Minister of Education, the Galician Secretary General of Universities**, together with the **three rectors** of the Galician public universities. On the Argentine side, in addition to CONEAU, **four Argentine universities** joined: Universidad de La Plata, Universidad de Lomas de Zamora, Universidad de San Martín and Universidad Tres de Febrero.

The idea, proposed by ACSUG, for the creation and implementation of bachelor, masters and doctoral programmes with double degrees has had a good result. First of all, the two quality assurance agencies (ACSUG and CONEAU) signed a **mutual collaboration agreement**. Secondly, the three Galician public universities signed an **agreement to immediately implement dual degrees** with the Argentine universities, both in bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes, starting no later than 2025.



Renewed ENQA membership and EQAR registration for AHPGS

by Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS)

Following the targeted review in January 2024, the **AHPGS's membership of ENQA was renewed** on 13 September 2024. At the ENQA General Assembly in Malta on 24–25 October 2024, ENQA President Douglas Blackstock presented our Managing Director Eva Pietsch with the certificate for the renewal of the membership, valid until September 2029.

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS), by the decision of the Register Committee on 2 July 2024, has **renewed its registration** on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) **for 5 years**. This milestone underscores AHPGS's commitment to maintaining and advancing high-quality standards in the accreditation and quality assurance of educational programs. Membership in ENQA and registration in EQAR reflects compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) and demonstrates the agency's dedication to contributing to the development of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

After its recognition at the end of 2023, the AHPGS carried out several accreditation procedures according to the BME Standards by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) in 2024. The accreditation of medical study programs serves as a mark of excellence and reliability, benefiting institutions, learners, and healthcare systems on a global scale. In addition to the recognition for Germany and Austria, cross-border activities are also being requested for countries that do not have a recognized agency.

