



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 step into a new year, it is the perfect moment to reflect on what we have achieved together in 2025. This past year marked a decade of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes celebrated in Cologne with a conference that highlighted reflections and further directions. We are also making steady progress toward launching the ECA Expert Exchange Platform, which will provide us with easier access to international QA experts. Not to forget our successful trainings on the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes held in Darmstadt, Germany and Bucharest, Romania.

Each year, we reinforce our shared commitment and the strength of our cooperation. Through seminars, trainings, collaborative projects, and many other membership-driven activities, we continue to shape a dynamic and engaged network.

With this confidence, let us welcome the year ahead with renewed enthusiasm, ready to embrace new opportunities and continue building on our progress. Our heartfelt thanks go to my fellow board colleagues for their unwavering support and commitment.

To all of you, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyful, healthy, and successful New Year.

Eva Fernández de Labastida  
ECA Chair



Ronny Heintze  
ECA Vice-Chair



# SAVE THE DATES

Join ECA events in 2026



## Members Seminar & Training, Heidelberg, Germany: 24-26 February 2026



We're delighted to invite you to the upcoming **ECA Seminar**, which can be combined with the training "**European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**." The central theme of this edition of the seminar will be **Diversity in Higher Education**, a topic of growing importance across European higher education systems.

The event will take place from **24 to 26 February 2026** and will be hosted by our member organisation, the **Evaluation Agency of Baden-Württemberg (evalag)**. Over three days, participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussions, share experiences, and deepen their understanding of quality assurance in an increasingly diverse and international higher education landscape.

### Programme at a Glance

- **24 February 2026:** ECA Seminar
- **25-26 February 2026:** Training: European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes



More information is available [HERE](#).



## ECA General Assembly & Training

**2-4 June 2026**

**Stockholm, Sweden**



# Expert Exchange Platform: Connecting Quality Assurance Agencies with International Expertise



By ECA

Over the past year, **ECA has been developing the Expert Exchange Platform**, an innovative digital solution set to be launched in the first quarter of 2026.

The ECA Expert Exchange Platform is an exclusive, state-of-the-art tool created to support its member agencies in responding to the growing demand for qualified international experts in quality assurance (QA) procedures across Europe.

## Bridging QA Agencies with Leading International Experts

At its core, the platform serves as a bridge between quality assurance agencies and highly qualified international experts. By bringing these two groups together in one secure and dedicated environment, the platform will make it easier for agencies to identify, connect with, and engage professionals whose profiles and experience best match their specific needs. This streamlined approach is designed to reduce administrative effort while broadening access to a diverse pool of international expertise.

## Strengthening Connections Across the ECA Network

The Expert Exchange Platform will also play a key role in strengthening collaboration within the ECA community. It will provide a structured and transparent way for agencies to submit inquiries for QA experts, fostering stronger partnerships between agencies and experts alike. Through this interconnected approach, the platform aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of selecting the right experts for each evaluation or accreditation project.

## Expert Recommendations Tailored to Specific Needs

One of the platform's central features is its ability to offer tailored expert recommendations. Based on the criteria defined by individual agencies - such as disciplinary expertise, professional background, or contextual requirements - the platform will suggest the most suitable experts for each assignment. This targeted matching process will help ensure that the right professional is selected every time, supporting high-quality and consistent outcomes in QA procedures.

 Expert Exchange Platform

## Unique European Expert register

Featuring a wide network of experienced quality assurance professionals in higher education

[Join as a QA expert](#) [Submit an expert inquiry](#)





# A Year of Progress and Collaboration: Success Stories Webinar



By ECA

We recently had the pleasure of gathering online with ECA member agencies for the ECA Success Stories Webinar, an event dedicated to reflecting on an inspiring year and looking ahead to what lies ahead for our community.

Chaired by ECA Board members **Amélie Bensimon** and **Sebastian Steele**, the webinar showcased an impressive range of projects that have made a meaningful contribution to quality assurance in higher education across Europe.

The event was opened by **Eva Fernández de Labastida**, Chair of ECA, who presented an overview of ECA's key milestones - both from its history and from 2025. Highlights included the successful celebration of the 10th anniversary of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes, marked by a special event in Cologne.

A warm thank-you goes to all presenters who shared their agencies' success stories, experiences, and innovative practices:

- **Giacomo Annese, MFHEA, Malta**
- **Belén Serrano Valenzuela, ACPUA, Spain**
- **Ali Al-Soufi, UKÄ, Sweden**
- **Vedrana Vojković-Estatiev, AZVO, Croatia**
- **Eva Fernández de Labastida, Unibasq, Spain**
- **Elena Catana, ARACIS, Romania**
- **Klemen Subic, NAKVIS, Slovenia**
- **Kasja Weenink, PhD, NVAO, The Netherlands**
- **Antoine Bourget, Hcéres, France**

Their contributions highlighted the diversity, innovation, and shared commitment that characterise the ECA network. We extend our sincere appreciation to all participating agencies for presenting their achievements and for their continued dedication to advancing quality assurance and inspiring the ECA community.



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# NEWS FROM ECA MEMBERS

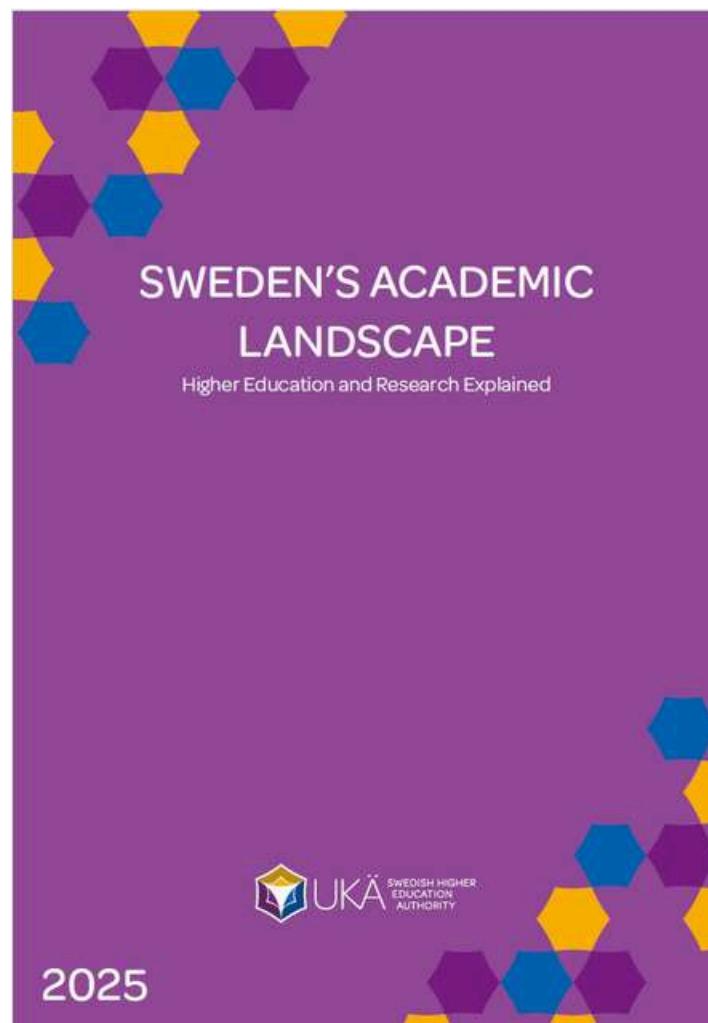
## Sweden's Academic Landscape

By The Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ)

UKÄ has finalized the work on publishing the Sweden's Academic Landscape which is an overview of the Swedish higher education and research system for international government agencies, higher education institutions, networks, and organisations with an interest in Sweden's academic structure.

To receive more information and the publication once published (November 2025), please fill in the form. The publication will be available in both printed and digital form.

Please sign-up using [this link](#) to receive a copy of the publication.



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# ARACIS - 20 years of learning and growing together

By The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ([ARACIS](#))

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, ARACIS organized four international webinars (May–June 2025) focused on the following key Bologna Process commitments:

- [The Bologna Process and the EHEA](#);
- [Quality Assurance in line with the ESG](#);
- [Recognition of qualifications in the EHEA](#);
- [The framework of qualifications in the European Higher Education Area](#).

In June, ARACIS also held a national seminar in Constanța with QA officers from Romanian higher education institutions and representatives of national authorities, discussing the external QA framework and the development of a quality culture in higher education.

The anniversary year culminated with the International Anniversary Conference (6–7 October, Brașov), featuring high-level representatives from ENQA, EQAR, EUA, OECD, the European Commission, and national stakeholders. The programme addressed themes such as QA for a changing world, the evolving legal framework in Romania, stakeholder engagement, QA for European University Alliances, and future trends in higher education.

