

HOW TO MANAGE QUALITY IN (PROFESSIONAL) HIGHER EDUCATION? A PRACTICAL APPROACH

RATIONALE

An event organised by EURASHE, the Rectors' Conference of Lithuanian University Colleges (LKDK), and Vilniaus Kolegija/University of Applied Sciences (VIKO)

The seminar on 'How to Manage Quality in (Professional) Higher Education? – A Practical Approach' is a 2-day event focusing on the management of quality (assurance) in higher education institutions.

It is intended to inspire institutional management, as well as staff members, and all stakeholders (e.g. students, world of work representatives, policy-makers) who are managing, coordinating and involved in quality in higher education institutions; bringing together a 'community of practice'.

EURASHE has focused in the past years on providing hands-on support to its member institutions and other higher education institutions in implementing the priority areas of the Bologna reform process, this is especially true when considering the need for such support in the area of quality assurance and quality management.

To achieve this, next to two previous hands-on seminars on internal quality assurance in 2012 and 2013, Lucien Bollaert, recognised expert in European quality assurance, has developed with the support of EURASHE's working group on quality assurance ***A Manual for Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education – with a special focus on professional higher education.***

This publication is meant to be an inspirational guidebook with fundamental issues and clarifications next to good practices and also with warnings of possible pitfalls to explore internal quality assurance.

It will serve as a basis for the discussions in Vilnius, with an opening plenary session where it will be presented and followed with open debates with the audience on the various steps of quality (management). Participants will then concentrate on 4 identified chapters of the Manual, namely: quality and QA from HEIs' vision and mission; quality and QA of student-centred learning; quality, QA and quality culture; and finally, QA and standards: ESG, EQA, rankings, transparency tools, with a special focus on the revised ESG (a process led by the E4-Group: ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE).

Further discussions will take place on the need for reform in European higher education with input by the representative of the European Commission. Additional workshop sessions will provide participants with examples of good practices for professional higher education, addressing quality, sector-specific quality assurance and labels; and quality of internationalisation. Examples of good practices from Lithuania will also be presented, where internationalisation of external quality assurance and regional cooperation in quality assurance are exemplary.

The involvement of various experts and representatives from European higher education, policy-makers, student representatives as well as experts from the world of work, will stimulate further the self-reflection of (professional) higher education in managing quality in a practical approach.