



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2013**

This Annual Report, which, next to giving an overview of the past working year, will provide the reader with the main results of events and initiatives undertaken by EURASHE. The purpose of this is to give a comprehensive outlook on the workings of the association, for the benefit of members and stakeholders in the field of professional higher education. This Annual Report was approved on 14 May 2014 at the association's General Assembly held in Yerevan (Armenia).

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**Lifelong
Learning**

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2013

2013 was for the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) a year of both consolidation and expansion of our association. In line with our policy of opening up our network to individual membership of institutions of higher education, we accepted as full or associate members 14 institutions and organisations, spanning the whole European Higher Education Area, of which 10 are individual institutions of higher education, ranging from research universities (with professionally oriented programmes) to specialised colleges, all offering profession-oriented higher education from Bachelor's level onwards. We also accepted new member institutions in countries where we had so far no affiliation at all, or were only represented by organisations. We are further extending our cooperation to other regions of the world, such as Latin America, the Gulf region and Northern Africa.

At the same time we are consolidating our presence in the core countries of Europe, through ongoing projects which focus on the profile of our core members (the HAPHE and PHEXel projects, which I will develop further), and via membership of advisory boards and stakeholder committees of projects run by sister associations and European institutions.

This is also a way to expand our influence and affiliation in the EU countries, where the affiliation could be made stronger, which is in line with recent policy decisions on enhancing our members' profile as Universities of Applied Sciences that are firmly established in the European Union.

2013 was the year in which we focused entirely on two projects that are at the core of our

mission and that therefore we chose to coordinate. The HAPHE project on ***Harmonising Approaches to Professional Higher Education in Europe*** is looking into the features that characterise programmes and institutions that profess themselves as professional higher education ('PHE'), which may help explain why such a diverse group of institutions and organisations in Europe are turning to EURASHE for policy-making and sharing of hands-on expertise in specific priority areas of the Bologna Process, such as recognition, innovation, employability, lifelong learning, which are precisely focus points in the professional programmes of study.

The second EU funded project that focuses entirely on the distinct profile of professional higher education, is the PHEXcel project, on ***Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence***, which looks at generic quality features of four specific professional programmes of study. The consortium comprises four Europe-wide sectorial associations that are highly representative of four disciplines, namely Business Studies (represented by the EURASHE member association known under the acronym SPACE), the Arts (represented by the European League of Institutes of the Arts, ELIA), Music Studies (represented by the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, AEC) and Nursing Studies (represented by the European Federation of Nurse Educators, FINE). At the moment we are also rewriting the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance together with E4 partners and other stakeholder organisations representing employers, teachers and registered QA agencies, this is both challenging and revealing for the perception and use of QA processes at professionally oriented

higher education institutions. Next to these two ground breaking projects, we are also involved as partners in a growing number of EU funded projects of other stakeholder organisations, as listed further in this publication, and sit on numerous advisory boards of others.

As a members and stakeholders organisation EURASHE was offering again a broad range of recurring events such as conferences, seminars, round tables, and workshops, etc., which increasingly provide opportunities to our members for sharing information, competence-building, and consultation with experts on EU policies and practices.

This Annual Report gives ample evidence of this, and I will only highlight the most important events of our own, as well as those we co-organise with other associations:

- EURASHE organised a **Round Table on Employability** in Brussels (Belgium) in February 2013, gathering representatives of stakeholders to discuss the concept of employability and its implications for professional higher education.
- In May 2013 we held in Split (Croatia) EURASHE's 23rd Annual Conference '**Higher Education – Making the Knowledge Triangle Work**', demonstrating that professional higher education is at the centre of the knowledge triangle, and contributes to providing education, employability and applied research opportunities to society.
- EURASHE's second hands-on seminar on the '**Implementation of Internal and External Quality Assurance**' was held in Bucharest (Romania) in October 2013, during which members shared their institutional experience with quality assurance experts.
- The **8th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)**, co-organised by EURASHE and its E4 partners in November 2013, dealt with how working together to bring quality forward is an imperative nowadays.
- In December 2013 EURASHE organised in Prague (Czech Republic), our annual lifelong learning seminar entitled '**Community of Practice Workshop on Learning Outcomes within PHE Context**' showcasing examples of best practices as regards the implementation of learning outcomes on the institutional level.

For our role as the officially acknowledged stakeholder of professional higher education, I will just mention the most relevant ones:

- EURASHE presented its viewpoints on the importance of education and training for employment at the **Standing Conference of Ministers of Education on 'Governance and Quality Education'** of the Council of Europe, which met in Helsinki (Finland), 26-27 April. The Declaration signed by the participating ministers reflects our standpoint of involving all stakeholders in the governance and quality assurance processes of higher education institutions.
- At the invitation of our Polish members we gave our views on the features of PHE in a Conference on **Professionally oriented Higher Education – European Examples and Options for Poland**, organised in Warsaw (Poland), 12 June.
- We made a contribution on the quality and the methodology of e-learning at the **EFQUEL Innovation Forum 2013**, Barcelona (Spain), 26-27 September.

- EURASHE confirmed its commitment to the further development of the EHEA at the **Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education on the Implementation of the EHEA**, Yerevan (Armenia), 17-18 October, and presented the profile of professional higher education as a means to secure the employability of the young generations.
- Together with the UASnet colleagues, the SPACE Network and the Baltic Forum we exchanged views on the importance of the UAS institutions for regional development and innovation, at a jointly organised **Forum on Internationalisation and Development of Professionally Oriented Programmes and Applied Research at Universities of Applied Sciences**, in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 20-21 November.
- We shared our experience on the recognition of prior learning at the seminar on **Exchanging Practices on RPL – Learning from Nordic-Baltic Experiences**, in Tallinn (Estonia), 16-17 December.

In this publication you will also read about EURASHE's engagement in the development of policies on key issues for professional higher education. In 2013 EURASHE focused on 4 areas of work corresponding to the challenges professional higher education is facing, which are: modernising professional higher education within a diversified higher education; our role in research, development and innovation; the specific mission of professional higher education and features of quality of professional higher education.

In separate units of this publication, you will get a brief insight in our role in the Bologna Reform Process, our policy development, our involvement in projects, a summing up of major events organised by EURASHE in 2013, a short picture of the governing bodies of EURASHE, and finally a presentation of our Secretariat.

As such, it is an accurate and comprehensive overview of the activities and events that made the life of EURASHE in 2013, comprising of now 15 national associations, and through them over 1 100 institutions of higher education, next to a growing number of associate partners who have a stake in higher education.




Prof. Andreas G. Orphanides
President of EURASHE, and Rector of European University Cyprus (EUC)

A YEAR IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY

On 7 February EURASHE organised a **Round Table on Employability** in Brussels (Belgium)

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MARCH

EURASHE was represented in the meeting of the BFUG in Dublin (Ireland) on 14-15 March 2013

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DECEMBER

On 13 December 2013 EURASHE co-organised a **Workshop on Learning Outcomes** in Prague (Czech Republic)

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NOVEMBER

EURASHE co-organised the **8th EQAF** in Gothenburg (Sweden) on 21-23 November 2013

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OCTOBER

On 24-25 October 2013 EURASHE organised a **Seminar on Quality Assurance** in Bucharest (Romania)

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APRIL

EURASHE took part in the Council of Europe's Conference on 'Governance and Quality Education'

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MAY

EURASHE organised its 23rd Annual Conference 'Higher Education – Making the Knowledge Triangle Work'

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JUNE

EURASHE was represented at the JOQAR conference on 20-21 June in Madrid (Spain)

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SEPTEMBER

EURASHE gathered the 1st HAPHE Expert Group meeting on PHE in Stuttgart (Germany) on 9 September 2013

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JULY

In July EURASHE continued its involvement in the revision of the ESG, one year after its start

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EURASHE MEMBERS & PARTNERS

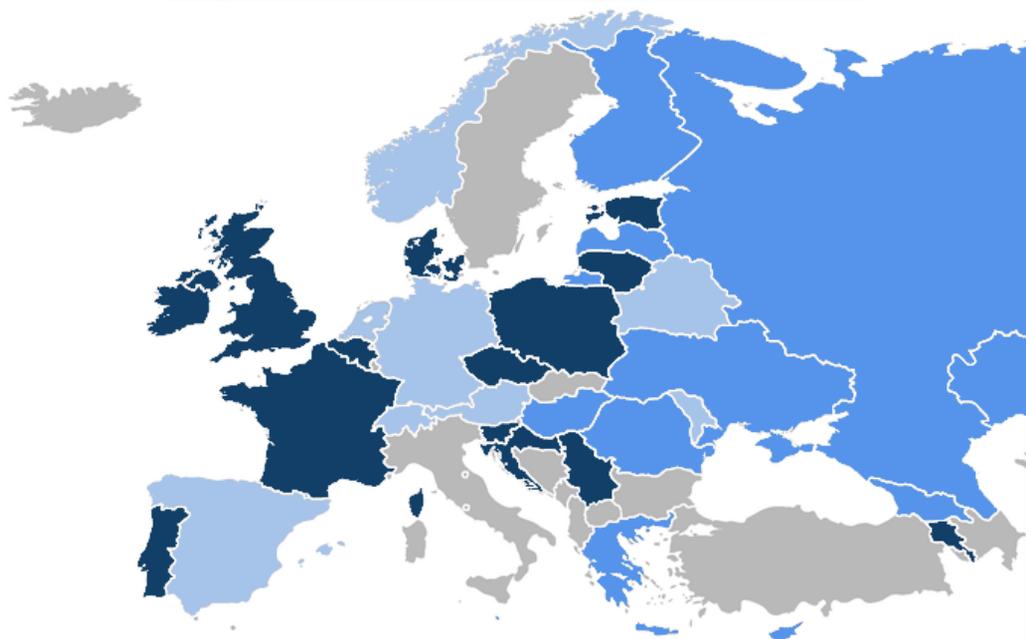
Currently about 1 100 higher education institutions in 40 countries within and outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) are affiliated to EURASHE. Members of EURASHE are national associations of higher education institutions and individual institutions, such as universities, (university) colleges and universities of applied sciences, as well as other professional associations and stakeholder organisations active in the field of higher education.

In 2013 EURASHE welcomed 14 new members:

- Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA) (Greece)
- College of Law (JK) (Latvia)
- Kazakh Russian International University (KRMU) (Kazakhstan)
- Rectors' Council of Armenia State Higher Educational Institutions (Armenia)
- National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA) (Armenia)
- Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU) (Armenia)
- College for Information Technologies (VSITE) (Croatia)
- College for Law and Finance (EFFECTUS) (Croatia)
- Coventry University (United Kingdom)
- Hellenic Open University (HOU) (Greece)
- Benha University (Egypt) (associate member)
- Emirates College of Technology (ECT) (United Arab Emirates) (associate member)
- Mexican Council for Cultural Diplomacy (MCCD) (Mexico) (associate member)
- National Qualifications Authority (NQA) (United Arab Emirates) (associate member)

In 2013 EURASHE also signed a memorandum of understanding with:

- International Baccalaureate (IB)



At the end of 2013, EURASHE members are:

National associations of higher education institutions:

1. Assemblée des Directeurs d'Instituts Universitaires de Technologie (ADIUT)
2. Association of Slovene Higher Vocational Colleges (ASHVC)
3. Conference of Academies for Applied Studies in Serbia (KACCC)
4. Conference of Rectors of State Schools of Higher Vocational Education in Poland (KRePSZ)
5. Conseil Général des Hautes Écoles (CGHE)
6. Croatian Council of Universities and University Colleges of Applied Sciences (VVIVŠ)
7. Czech Association of Schools of Professional Higher Education (CASPHE)
8. Danish Rectors' Conference – University Colleges Denmark (UC-DK)
9. Estonian Rectors Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences (RKRN)
10. Flemish Council of University Colleges (VLHORA)
11. Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI)
12. Portuguese Polytechnics Coordinating Council (CCISP)
13. Rectors' Conference of Lithuanian University Colleges (LKDK)
14. Rectors' Council of Armenia State Higher Educational Institutions
15. West of Scotland Colleges' Partnership (WoSCoP)

Individual higher education institutions:

16. Angelus Silesius State School of Higher Vocational Education in Wałbrzych (PWSZ-AS)
17. Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU)
18. Arcada University of Applied Sciences
19. Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA)
20. BA School of Business and Finance
21. Budapest Business School (BBS)
22. Caspian State University of Technologies and Engineering named after Sh. Yessenov (CSUTE)
23. College for Information Technologies (VSITE)
24. College for Law and Finance (EFFECTUS)
25. College of Law (JK)
26. College of Szolnok
27. Coventry University
28. European University Cyprus (EUC)

29. Hellenic American College (HAEC)
30. Hellenic Open University (HOU)
31. JAMK University of Applied Sciences (JAMK)
32. Kazakh Russian International University (KRMU)
33. Kazakh University of Economics, Finance and International Trade (KazUEFIT)
34. Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda State University (KKSU)
35. Kyiv University of Law of National Academy of Science of Ukraine (KUL)
36. Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST)
37. Moscow Banking School (College) of the Central Bank of Russian Federation
38. National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA)
39. National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)
40. Open University of Cyprus (OUC)
41. Ovidius University of Constantza (O.U.C.)
42. Regional Open Social Institute (ROSI)
43. State Higher Vocational School in Tarnow (University of Applied Sciences) (PWSZ-TAR)
44. Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Patras
45. Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Serres
46. Tula State Lev Tolstoy Pedagogical University (TSPU)
47. TURIBA University
48. University Interpharm+ (UI+)
49. University of 'Petre Andrei' in Iași (UPA)

Sectorial associations of higher education institutions:

50. Association of Law Schools (ALS)
51. International Association of Trade and Economic Education (IATEE)
52. SPACE Network for Business Studies and Languages (SPACE)

Organisations:

53. Dutch Association for Shorter Higher Education (DASHE)
54. Malta Qualifications Council (MQC)

EURASHE also has members outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), they are associations of higher education institutions, individual institutions but also organisations active in the field of higher education:

55. Mexican Council for Cultural Diplomacy (MCCD)
56. National Qualifications Authority (NQA)
57. Education Network Association (EdNet)
58. Benha University
59. Emirates College of Technology (ECT)
60. University of Saint Joseph (USJ)

EURASHE has developed a partnership with specific stakeholder organisations active in the field of higher education. They can take the form of a partnership agreement or of the membership of EURASHE in other organisations.

Partnerships:

1. Cégep international
2. Community Colleges for International Development Inc. (CCID)
3. International Baccalaureate (IB)
4. Universities of Applied Sciences network (UASnet)

Memberships:

1. European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)
2. European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL)
3. EMUNI University

One specific form of partnership EURASHE has developed for years now, is the E4-Group with colleagues from quality assurance agencies (ENQA), student representatives (ESU), and universities (EUA). The E4-Group is a partnership essentially centred around matters of quality assurance and all four organisations composing it are consultative members of the Bologna Process. Together the E4-Group has developed the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), has set-up the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), has carried out the MAP-ESG project, and is currently revising the ESG.

E4-Group:

1. European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
2. European Students' Union (ESU)
3. European University Association (EUA)
4. European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)



EURASHE IN THE EHEA

EURASHE has been a partner in the Bologna Process since 2001, as a consultative member of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), and as such as the true voice of professional higher education in Europe towards other stakeholders in the European Union, but also other countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).



Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG)

In 2013 EURASHE was represented in the meetings of the BFUG as well as in the meetings of the BFUG Board. Furthermore EURASHE delegates took part in the meetings of the working groups on the Reporting of the Implementation of the Bologna Process (WG1), on Structural Reforms (WG2) and on the Social Dimension (WG3). EURASHE is also present in the steering group of the European Recognition of Prior Learning Network.



Revision process of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

In 2013 EURASHE continued to be involved in both the steering and drafting groups of the revision process of the ESG. This process is led by the E4-Group with the involvement of Education International, BUSINESSEUROPE and EQAR. The proposal by the stakeholders will be presented to the Bologna Follow-Up Group in 2014 for their adoption at the Ministerial Conference of 2015.



ECTS Users' Guide

Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide

EURASHE is involved in the revision of the ECTS Users' Guide, originating from the discussions within the Bologna Process and led by the European Commission. The revised guide will be presented to institutions and stakeholders in 2014. EURASHE is represented in this process by member experts, member of their respective national Bologna experts team.

Representing Professional Higher Education

In 2013 EURASHE represented professional higher education and its position towards various stakeholders and policy-makers - EURASHE delivered presentations, speeches and took part in a panel discussion. The following is a brief selection of these events:

- Standing Conference of Ministers of Education on 'Governance and Quality Education' of the Council of Europe, Helsinki (Finland), 26-27 April 2013
- Conference on Professionally-oriented Higher Education – European Examples and Options for Poland, Warsaw (Poland), 12 June 2013
- EFQUEL Innovation Forum 2013, Barcelona (Spain), 26-27 September 2013
- Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education on the Implementation of the EHEA, Yerevan (Armenia), 17-18 October 2013
- Applied Sciences Forum 2013: Internationalisation and Development of Professionally Oriented Programmes and Applied Research at Universities of Applied Sciences, Vilnius (Lithuania), 20-21 November 2013
- Exchanging Practices on RPL – Learning from Nordic-Baltic Experiences, Tallinn (Estonia), 16-17 December 2013

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

EURASHE is engaged in the development of policies on key issues for professional higher education. In 2013 EURASHE focused on 4 areas of work corresponding to the challenges professional higher education is facing. They are set out in more details in our policy papers, especially the overarching policy paper *Towards a Diversified, Responsive and Competitive European Higher Education*. These 4 areas are: modernising professional higher education within diversified higher education; research, development and innovation; mission of professional higher education; and quality of higher education.



Modernising Professional Higher Education within Diversified Higher Education

In 2013, EURASHE conducted, as in the past, a large share of its activities under the area of modernising professional higher education within diversified higher education, the internal grouping responding to the Modernisation Agenda. In this area EURASHE conducted research, addressed the need to provide training opportunities, conducted advocacy, and continued its policy work. In conducting research in 2013, EURASHE realised a study on employability (2014, to be published). It is one of the main activities of the year, the centre of our emphasis on employability in 2013. Based on the preliminary research conducted in 2012, and the discussions and debates of the round table on employability in early 2013, the study showcases the relevance and important contribution of professional higher education towards the employability of graduates.

Two of the ways in which EURASHE provided training opportunities in 2013 are the 23rd Annual Conference and the annual lifelong learning seminar. A specific track on employability and its specificity as regards professional higher education was included in the 23rd Annual Conference. The lifelong learning seminar was dedicated this year to learning outcomes, based on the current debates. Participants had the opportunity to

gather best practices as to the actual implementation and use of learning outcomes in various institutions of professional higher education in Europe.

Advocacy was also one way for EURASHE to pursue its activities in 2013. This was concentrated on the promotion of lifelong learning strategies, both towards implementation on the institutional level, with the outcomes of the past FLLLEX project and its delivered tools; but also towards policy-makers and other stakeholders on the views, and vast experience, of professional higher education institutions in the recognition of prior learning. Finally EURASHE continued its policy work in 2013 mainly through its status of consultative member in the Bologna Process. This led to EURASHE's inclusion in the revision process of the ECTS users' guide through the expert role of its members. EURASHE is also represented in the European Recognition of Prior Learning Network (ERPLN) with its representative, another of its members, being selected in the steering committee in 2013.



Research, Development and Innovation

In 2013 EURASHE continued to develop its activities in the area of research, development and innovation, in support of its member institutions involved in applied research. This was achieved through the cooperation with the Universities of Applied

Sciences Network (UASnet), whose membership is largely overlapping with EURASHE's. In this area EURASHE concentrated on providing training and capacity building through the 23rd Annual Conference. A specific track and several sessions of the annual conference were dedicated to innovation in professional higher education institutions. It allowed participants to come in contact with particular manners in which institutions develop their research activities within the profile of professional higher education as well as ways to set them up.



Mission of Professional Higher Education

In the area of the mission of professional higher education, 2013 was a year in which EURASHE concentrated its activities on research with the HAPHE project. Coupled with the preliminary research conducted prior to its launch in 2012, it shows an important potential for institutions. In this sense it will provide not only the institutions themselves, but also all stakeholders (from other higher education institutions, i.e. universities, to policy-makers, through students and world of work representatives) with a clearer picture of what is professional higher education in Europe, and with this allow for better and more efficient evidence-based activities. This project, and in large part the preliminary activities conducted, were handled with core members of EURASHE, because of the intrinsic importance of the topic for member organisations.

On the other hand, EURASHE continued its advocacy activities in representing the views of professional higher education towards all stakeholders, with a specific initiative on developing closer links to representatives of business as a EU-level organisation.



Quality of Higher Education

In the area of quality of higher education, EURASHE conducted in 2013 research in developing the Manual for Internal Quality Assurance (2014, to be published). The manual was developed by members of the working group for quality assurance of EURASHE with feedback from external experts and participants of the seminar on quality assurance. First begun in 2012, the manual evolved and grew in scope and importance. In the end EURASHE aims at delivering a manual that will provide support to institutions but also foster dialogue on the necessary shift to quality culture within higher education institutions.

EURASHE also addressed the need to provide training and capacity building opportunities to its member organisation, but also to other higher education institutions. This was realised with the second hands-on seminar on quality assurance. With a large variety of quality assurance practitioners, participants could support their professional development in implementing internal quality assurance processes, but also adequately prepare for external quality assurance provisions. Finally one important activity of 2013 in the area of quality of higher education was the continuation of EURASHE's policy activities, with the participation and large impact in the revision process of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

PROJECTS

EURASHE develops innovative and hands-on projects in response to the challenges facing European higher education. Our approach is multi-disciplinary, politically independent and combines (applied) research and policy development with concrete initiatives. EURASHE also contributes to projects through consultative, advisory and stakeholder boards. In 2013 EURASHE was engaged in the following projects:



HAPHE

EURASHE is leader of the HAPHE project on Harmonising

Approaches to Professional Higher Education in Europe, running from 2012 to 2014. HAPHE intends, to bring together a group of field experts, who, through a wide consultation with stakeholders from education, business and society, will harmonise approaches to professional higher education (PHE) (predominantly at European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level 6 and above) throughout Europe. Activities include surveying the different approaches to PHE provision throughout EU-member states; setting out the defining characteristics of a 'professional' higher education programme; proposing a set of criteria which contribute towards the best-case fulfilment of those characteristics. More on <http://haphe.eurashe.eu>



PHEExcel

EURASHE is leader of the PHEExcel project on Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence, running from 2013 to 2015. PHEExcel aims to support professional higher education institutions across Europe to improve their performance. It plans to achieve this by providing them with a quality framework that defines best practice in the professional (as compared to academic) elements of their processes. The proposal derives from the strategic consultations held within EURASHE and its membership, which identify that there is no

instrument for measuring, benchmarking or assessing professional higher education's performance, depriving the sector of a critical method for conducting self-improvement. More on <http://phexcel.eurashe.eu>



IDEAS

EURASHE is a partner in the IDEAS project on Identifying Effective Approaches to

Enhancing the Social Dimension of Higher Education, running from 2013 to 2015. IDEAS aims to expedite the increase of equitable access, participation and completion of higher education across Europe through a concrete and effective exercise where circa 70 initiatives will be identified and analysed. It will aid in the creation of an IDEAS toolbox which will contain all effective equity approaches, describing how to increase access, participation and/or completion of specific target groups. More on www.eurashe.eu/ideas



HUMERIA

EURASHE is an associate partner of the HUMERIA project on

HUMANities, Education, Research, International relations and Arts between higher education institutions of the EU and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), from 2013 to 2017. HUMERIA aims at stimulating institutional cooperation and collaboration, and in particular between decision- and policy-makers, on strategies to

enhance internationalisation. More on www.eurashe.eu/humeria

LEMONOC

EURASHE is an associate partner in the LEMONOC project on Learning Mobility with non-Industrialised Countries, running from 2013 to 2015. LEMONOC aims at developing a best practices manual on the different items of learning mobility with non-industrialised countries, create diverse e-publications with links to validated (online) good practices, and a self-assessment tool for institutions on an e-platform. More on www.eurashe.eu/lemonoc



EURASHE is an associate partner in the EMCOSU project on Emerging Modes of Cooperation between Private Sector Organisations and Universities, running from 2012 to 2015. EMCOSU addresses three general questions. Which are the most relevant modes of cooperation between universities and enterprises and why? What are current characteristics of cooperation modes and their future developmental needs? Which are key developmental drivers and motives on cooperation on the side of universities and enterprises? More on www.eurashe.eu/emcosu



EURASHE is member of the stakeholders' board of the EUROGRADUATE project on a Feasibility study for a European graduate study, running from 2013 to 2015. The feasibility study asks if and how a sustainable study on Europe's higher education graduates could be established. To this end it systematically explores, among others, the requirements for such a study; the existing capacities for monitoring European graduates; the point of departure at national level. More on www.eurashe.eu/eurograduate



PL4SD

EURASHE is in the Stakeholders' Forum of the PL4SD project on Peer Learning for the Social Dimension, running from 2012 to 2015. The objective of the PL4SD project is to provide policy-makers and practitioners with resources to develop effective measures for ensuring the social dimension of the EHEA. The Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) working group on the Social Dimension acts as the Stakeholders' Forum. More on www.eurashe.eu/pl4sd



AHELO

EURASHE is in the stakeholders' consultative group of the AHELO project on a Feasibility Study for the International Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes, running from 2010 to 2013. The purpose of this Feasibility Study is to see how to assess what students in higher education know and can do upon graduation. More than a ranking, it aims to be a direct evaluation of student performance at the global level and valid across diverse cultures, languages and different types of institutions. More on www.eurashe.eu/ahelo



EURASHE is in the stakeholders group of the JOQAR project on Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded, running from 2010 to 2013. The overall purpose of the project is to ensure that Erasmus Mundus programmes (and joint programmes in general) are facilitated in two specific areas: accreditation and recognition. More on www.eurashe.eu/joqar

EVENTS

One of EURASHE's aims is to represent the views of professional higher education institutions towards policy-makers in education. To that end EURASHE organised and participated in events on professional higher education in Europe throughout the year. In 2013 EURASHE organised its 23rd Annual Conference, a thematic seminar on quality assurance, its annual lifelong learning seminar, a round table on employability and also co-organised the 8th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF):



23rd Annual Conference: Higher Education – Making the Knowledge Triangle Work

EURASHE organised its 23rd Annual Conference: Higher Education – Making the Knowledge Triangle Work in Split (Croatia) on 9-10 May 2013. It was held under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia, prof.dr.sc. Ivo Josipović. EURASHE as the voice of professional higher education in the Bologna Process endeavours to encourage on the institutional level knowledge-based alliances in the EHEA, focusing on research and technology. To this end the Annual Conference linked education, innovation and employability in a knowledge triangle in which professionally oriented programmes play an important role. The conference opened with a look at the above links of the knowledge triangle on a systemic level, through the eyes of the hosting country Croatia, while taking into account the European Commission's view on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). It was accompanied by the messages of 4 Members of the European Parliament highlighting the latest developments especially in view of Horizon 2020. The 3 subsequent conference tracks (with interactive workshops, roundtable sessions and panel discussions) developed the 3 major themes, namely identifying professional higher education in the EHEA, creating knowledge in the institutions in close cooperation with stakeholders, and finally how to make this

knowledge triangle work, for the benefit of institutions, students and graduates.



Seminar on the Implementation of Internal and External Quality Assurance

EURASHE organised a Seminar on the Implementation of Internal and External Quality Assurance in Bucharest (Romania) on 24-25 October 2013 hosted by the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA). EURASHE has committed itself to provide hands-on support to higher education institutions in the implementation of the priority areas of the Bologna Process, a logical consequence of the creation of the EHEA in 2010, where the focus has shifted to the implementation of the 'Bologna achievements' on the institutional level. This is certainly the case for quality assurance, as one of the domains with most visible successes, on systemic and institutional level. The quality assurance seminar in Bucharest is our second hands-on seminar focusing on internal quality assurance proceedings, and therefore a useful addition to the annual gathering of policy-makers and quality assurance coordinators at the European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), and to the training seminars for participants in external review teams organised by quality assurance agencies. The Minister of National Education of the Republic of Romania, Mr Remus Pricopie, has offered his patronage for

the seminar, and took part in the seminar's closing round table on quality assurance in the EHEA.



Community of Practice Workshop on Learning Outcomes within PHE Context

EURASHE organised a Community of Practice Workshop on Learning Outcomes within PHE Context in Prague (Czech Republic) on 13 December 2013 jointly with the Czech Association of Schools of Professional Higher Education (CASPHE) and the College of Nursing (VŠZ). Policy statements and conferences may provide a good basis for further discussion; yet provide very little opportunity to share concrete experience and practices. Thus, there comes the proposal to bring together a group of practitioners in order to allow them to discuss challenges, barriers as well as good practices, to learn from each other, build new contacts – but also to get from the discussion more inspiration and input for further policy endeavours of EURASHE at European level. The event was also a part of EURASHE's efforts to provide more practically oriented events and strengthen its communication with institutions, in particular its members. This EURASHE Community of Practice Workshop on Learning Outcomes within PHE Context proposed discussions and debates on the following topics: reflection of labour market needs, promotion of graduates' employability, learning outcomes translation into content, methods of learning and assessment in professional higher education.



Round Table on Employability

EURASHE organised a Round Table on Employability in Brussels (Belgium) on 7

February 2013. Taking up on EURASHE's long-standing involvement in the field of employability, EURASHE's working group on employability and lifelong learning, under the impulsion of its members, organised this gathering of experts in the area. Previous discussions by the working group on employability and lifelong learning have established a wide framework of what may be understood under this notion, which was further developed by the discussions of this round table. Through discussions deepening the understanding of the notion of employability, the 12 participants engaged with other colleagues to widen the community's overall participation in the further exploring of employability.

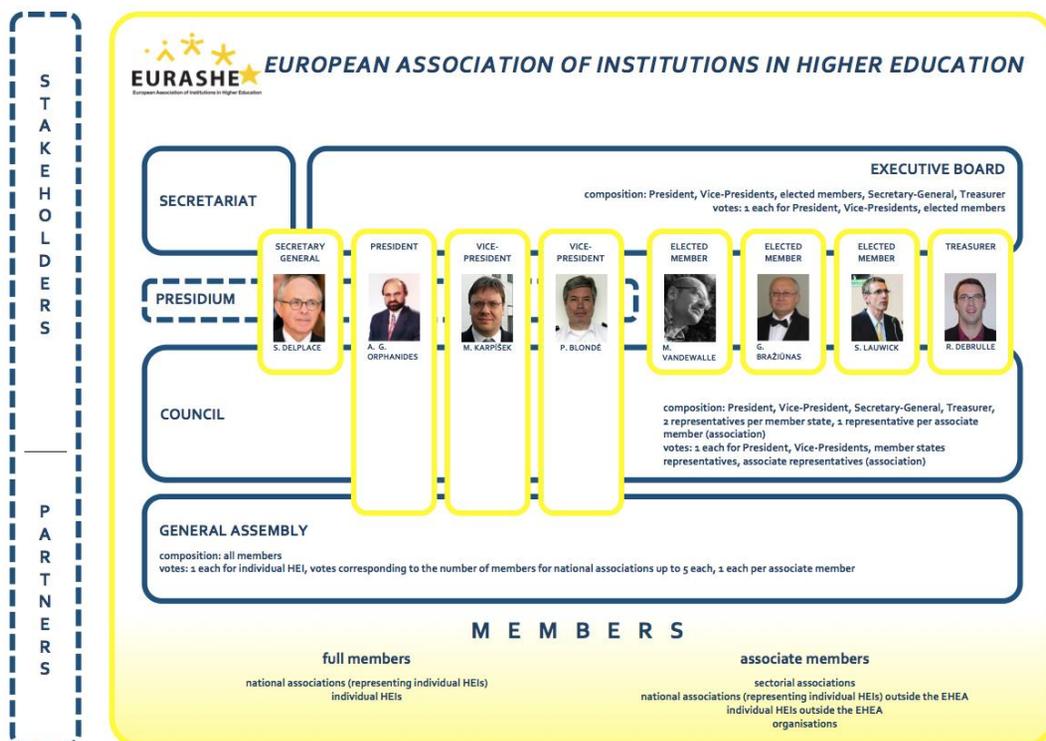


8th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF): Working together to take quality forward

The E4-Group organised the 8th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF): Working together to take quality forward in Gothenburg (Sweden) on 21-23 November 2013. Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2013 edition of EQAF combined practice oriented and research based discussions. This year the forum specifically explored how both individuals and organisations can better understand the role that quality assurance can play in their daily lives, get engaged and work together to take quality forward.

ABOUT EURASHE

EURASHE was founded in Patras (Greece) in 1990. It has the status of a non-profit international association according to Belgian law and its Secretariat is located in Brussels (Belgium). From a gathering of 5 national associations of directors of colleges we have evolved into the acknowledged representative of professional higher education in Europe, including in the major reform of European higher education, the Bologna Process.



Board

In 2013 the Board of EURASHE was composed of:

- Andreas G. Orphanides (Cyprus), President
- Michal Karpíšek (Czech Republic), Vice-President
- Patrick Blondé (Belgium), Vice-President
- Marc Vandewalle (Belgium), elected member
- Gintautas Bražiūnas (Lithuania), elected member
- Stéphane Lauwick (France), elected member
- Regis Debrulle (Belgium), Treasurer
- Stefan Delplace (Belgium), Secretary General

Secretariat

In 2013 the Secretariat of EURASHE was composed of:

- Alexandre Wipf (France), policy and communications officer
- Marko Grdošić (Croatia), project officer
- Iva Voldánová (Czech Republic), project associate
- Kristína Kočková (Slovakia), financial and administrative officer
- Béatrice Schobbens (Belgium), policy and research officer

Meetings

In 2013 the bodies of EURASHE met on the following occasions:

- EURASHE WG6 – Employability & LLL (1st meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 8 February 2013
- EURASHE Board meeting (1st meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 8 February 2013
- EURASHE Council meeting (1st meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 9 February 2013
- EURASHE Workshop on Strategy & Policy Coordination, Brussels (Belgium), 9 February 2013
- EURASHE WG6 – Employability & LLL (2nd meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 15 February 2013
- EURASHE WG5 – Quality of HE (1st meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 21 February 2013
- EURASHE 2013 General Assembly, Split (Croatia), 8 May 2013
- EURASHE Policy Session/Members' Dialogue, Split (Croatia), 8 May 2013
- EURASHE WG5 – Quality of HE (2nd meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 7 June 2013
- EURASHE WG6 – Employability & LLL (3rd meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 21 June 2013
- EURASHE WG5 – Quality of HE (3rd meeting 2013), Brussels (Belgium), 2 October 2013
- EURASHE Board meeting (2nd meeting 2013), Bucharest (Romania), 26 October 2013
- EURASHE Council meeting (2nd meeting 2013), Bucharest (Romania), 26 October 2013
- EURASHE Policy Workshop on Employability, Bucharest (Romania), 26 October 2013

Council

EURASHE's Council is the policy-making body of the association. It determines the overall policy of the association. It initiates and approves EURASHE's Policy Papers and Strategies. In 2013 it also discussed developments in the membership of EURASHE and led discussions within the association on the Alliance for Apprenticeships, quality assurance and employability, among others.

Policy sessions

EURASHE organises policy sessions for its members to present and highlight the latest developments in higher education on the European level. These events are also the ideal forum to refine the policies of EURASHE in conjunction with the meetings of the Council of EURASHE. Three such sessions were organised in 2013, enabling members to discuss the working arrangements within the association but also its future commitments and the 2014 work programme.

'Working group 5' on quality of higher education

EURASHE's working group on quality of higher education is the privileged forum within the association where topics of quality assurance, accreditation and transparency tools are discussed and debated. The working group is composed of representatives of member organisations as well as external experts representing EURASHE's partners, including quality assurance agencies. This group develops the projects and events of EURASHE in the field.

'Working group 6' on employability and lifelong learning

The body where matters of lifelong learning, employability, recognition of prior learning and short-cycle higher education are debated is EURASHE's working group on employability and lifelong learning. Members of the working group are representatives of members of EURASHE with some external experts representing the breadth of higher education. The working group is instrumental in supporting the events and projects of EURASHE in the area.

MORE INFORMATION

Information

Further information on EURASHE and our activities are available on our website at www.eurashe.eu
You can also stay in touch with professional higher education through social networks on:

Twitter at www.twitter.com/eurashe

Facebook at www.facebook.com/eurashe

LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/eurashe

Library

EURASHE has been developing an online library on its website available at www.eurashe.eu/library
It contains all the publications of EURASHE, documents from its projects, as well as speeches and presentations delivered in our events.

Moreover EURASHE has developed several topic-based repositories with and for its members including a repository of mobility and a repository on employability.

Photographs

Photographs of EURASHE's events, as far back as the 2005 Annual Conference, are available on our Flickr photostream at www.flickr.com/eurashe or at www.eurashe.eu/photographs

Videos

Videos of EURASHE, include the message by the 4 Members of the European Parliament delivered during the 23rd Annual Conference in May 2013, are available on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/eurashe or at www.eurashe.eu/videos

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Multilingual

Multilingual information on EURASHE is also available on our website in the following languages:

Deutsch at www.eurashe.eu/deutsch

Español at www.eurashe.eu/espanol

Français at www.eurashe.eu/francais

Nederlands at www.eurashe.eu/nederlands

Português at www.eurashe.eu/portugues

Srpski at www.eurashe.eu/srpski



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