



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2014**



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 15 April 2015 at the association’s General Assembly held in Lisbon (Portugal).

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Cover and page layout by Alexandre Wipf (EURASHE).

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2014

2014 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 6 institutions and organisations, spanning the whole European Higher Education Area (EHEA), ranging from research universities (with professionally-orientated programmes) to specialised colleges, all offering profession-orientated higher education from Bachelor's level onwards. 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 EU.

In 2014 a number of important strategic debates were held in the different statutory bodies and working groups: the focus on research in professional higher education and the decision to set-up a task force in this area, the interface with other sectors (VET and Youth) and the importance of the new teaching context. These debates resulted in different and new action lines of the working plan for 2015. One of the major changes in the governance of EURASHE was the adoption of a new membership fee system. This is an important contribution to the financial sustainability of the association. Also a

change of the statutes concerning internal rules and the membership policy was prepared.

2014 was the year in which we focused on two projects that are at the core of our mission and that therefore we chose to coordinate. The HAPHE project '**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. This project organised his closing seminar in Otočec (Slovenia) on the 16th and 17th October 2014 and the publication of the final publication is foreseen for spring 2015. The follow-up of the project is carried out through the agenda of our Task Force on the Mission of Professional Higher Education and a new project planned for 2015.

The second EU-funded project that focuses entirely on the distinct profile of professional higher education, is the PHEExcel project, on **Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence**, which looks at

generic quality features of professional higher education. A first publication on 'Quality Tools for Professional Higher Education Review and Improvement' is now available and a well-attended international seminar was organised in Vilnius on 'How to Manage Quality in (Professional) Higher Education? – A Practical Approach' on the 3th and 4th of December 2014.

Last but not least EURASHE published in 2014 a ***Manual for International Quality Assurance in Higher Education, with a special focus on Professional Higher Education*** by Lucien Bollaert, member of the executive board of the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders. Due to the success of the manual a new edition is in print.

As to the representation of professional higher education, EURASHE was a very active consultative member of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) and different working groups that are part of its working programme.

The European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance were revised 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 orientated higher education institutions. The revised ESG were endorsed by the BFUG in Rome at the end of September 2014.

EURASHE also took part in the revision of the ECTS User Guide to be adopted in Yerevan.

With the 2015 Ministerial Conference in Yerevan in sight, EURASHE started preparing its recommendations to the Ministers. They will be discussed on the General Assembly on the 15th of April 2015 in Lisbon.

In 2014 EURASHE's President Andreas G. Orphanides took the Presidency of EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education). The main debate within EQAR was the change of the recognition procedures for quality assurance agencies as a consequence of the revised ESG.

Next to 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 stakeholder 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.

A great number of the activities of EURASHE are financed by the operating grant provided by the European Commission, according to our proposed working plan. This operating grant enabled EURASHE to involve more institutions and experts in our activities and contribute to the impact at grass-root level of the educational reforms and the ET2020 agenda in the EHEA.

This Annual Report gives ample evidence of this, and I will only highlight the most important events of our own.

In May 2014 we held in Yerevan (Armenia) EURASHE's 24th Annual Conference

'Qualifications for the Labour Market, demonstrating that professional higher education is at the centre of the challenges of the 21st century society, and contributes to providing graduates and society with the needed qualifications, enabling them to cope with the fast changes on the labour market and contribute to innovation and social inclusion.

EURASHE organised two round tables in 2014 dealing with important topics for the association.

A **Round Table on Employability** was organised in Brussels (Belgium) on the 9th of December, gathering representatives of stakeholders to deepen the concept of employability and its implications for professional higher education. This concept will be central in the Ministers' Yerevan declaration and a field-legitimated approach is essential in the strategy of EURASHE.

A few days afterwards, on 12 December 2014 EURASHE organised in Warsaw (Poland) a **Round Table on the QA of the interface between HVET (higher vocational education and training) and Higher Education.** VET and in particular HVET are

central in the agenda of the European Commission. Also the recommendation of the BFUG to include Short-Cycle Higher Education (SCHE) in higher education is an important evolution. This round table discussed on the consequences of an interface between the two sectors.

As in previous years, EURASHE co-organised the **9th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)** with its E4 partners in November 2014. It dealt with 'Changing education - QA and the shift from teaching to learning', an issue completely in line with the EURASHE strategic points on QA.

In separate sections 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 2014, 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 2014, comprising of now 15 national associations, and through them about 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

A YEAR IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY

On 5 February EURASHE organised a **HAPHE Validation Seminar** in Brussels (Belgium)

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MARCH

EURASHE co-organised an **ESG Breakfast Briefing** in Brussels (Belgium) on 18 March 2014

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DECEMBER

On 3-4 December 2014 EURASHE organised a **Seminar on Quality Assurance** in Vilnius (Lithuania)

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NOVEMBER

EURASHE co-organised the **9th EQAF** in Barcelona (Spain) on 13-15 November 2014

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OCTOBER

On 16-17 October 2014 EURASHE organised a **Seminar on Professional Higher Education** in Otočec (Slovenia)

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APRIL

EURASHE took part in the Réunion du Forum Académique Permanent ALC-UE of the European Commission

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MAY

EURASHE organised its **24th Annual Conference 'Qualifications for the Labour Market'**

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JUNE

EURASHE gathered the 1st PHEXcel Expert Group meeting on Excellence in Brussels (Belgium) on 23-24 June 2014

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SEPTEMBER

EURASHE was represented at the meeting of the BFUG which endorsed the revised ESG

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JULY

EURASHE took part in the meeting of the Board of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG)

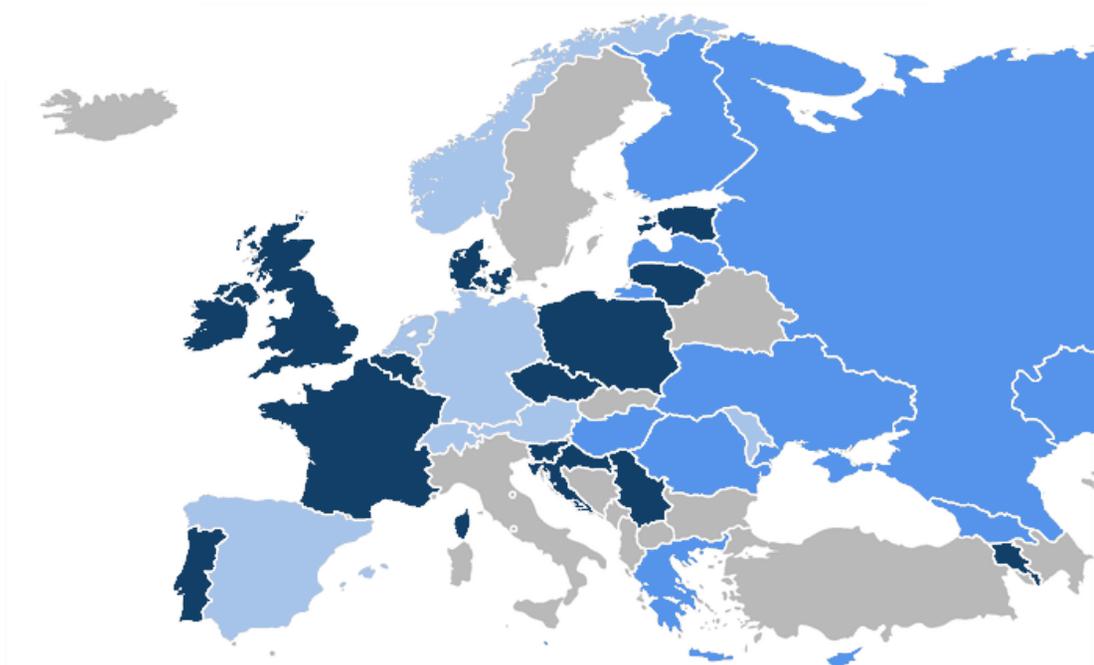
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EURASHE MEMBERS & PARTNERS

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 2014 EURASHE welcomed 6 new members:

- Attico College (Greece)
- European Regional Educational Academy of Armenia (EREA) (Armenia)
- Hellenic American College (HAEC) (Greece)
- The Cyprus Institute of Marketing (CIM) (Cyprus)
- University of Nicosia (UNic) (Cyprus)
- Foundation San Paul Andalucia (CEU) (Spain) (associate member)



At the end of 2014, 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. Arcada University of Applied Sciences
18. Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU)
19. Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA)
20. Attico College
21. BA School of Business and Finance
22. Budapest Business School (BBS)
23. Caspian State University of Technologies and Engineering named after Sh. Yessenov (CSUTE)
24. College for Information Technologies (VSITE)
25. College for Law and Finance (EFFECTUS)
26. College of Law (JK)
27. Coventry University
28. European Regional Educational Academy of Armenia (EREA)

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

Sectorial associations of higher education institutions:

53. Association of Law Schools (ALS)
54. SPACE Network for Business Studies and Languages (SPACE)

Organisations:

55. Dutch Association for Shorter Higher Education (DASHE)
56. Foundation San Paul Andaluçia (CEU)
57. 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:

58. Mexican Council for Cultural Diplomacy (MCCD)
59. National Qualifications Authority (NQA)
60. Education Network Association (EdNet)
61. Benha University
62. Emirates College of Technology (ECT)
63. 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. Fédération des cégeps
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), is co-organising the yearly European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), and has proposed in 2014 a revised version of 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 2014 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, on Structural Reforms and on the Social Dimension. EURASHE is also present in the steering group of the European Recognition of Prior Learning Network.



Proposal for revised European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

After a 2-year process, in 2014, the 7 stakeholder organisations involved in the revision process of the ESG presented their proposal for the revision to the higher education community as well as to the BFUG. The BFUG endorsed the revision proposal in its meeting in Rome (Italy) in September 2014, it is now subject to the approval of the 2015 EHEA Ministerial Conference.



Revised 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 was 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 2014 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. It is also a member of the ESCO Board, part of the Europe 2020 strategy, dealing with the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations. The following is a brief selection of these events:

- Seminar on Quality assurance in higher education in Southern Mediterranean countries: A tool to promote international cooperation, Brussels (Belgium), 27-28 March 2014
- Mobilising Europe's Universities for Smart Specialisation, Brussels (Belgium), 20 June 2014
- The 6th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2014, Brussels (Belgium), 25 June 2014
- 1st Senior Officials' Meeting of the 5th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting, Riga (Latvia), 10-11 November 2014
- Conference: Prepared to work?, Porto (Portugal), 14 November 2014
- NVAO-ECA Seminar: Employability and Quality Assurance, The Hague (Netherlands), 9 December 2014

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

EURASHE is engaged in the development of policies on key issues for professional higher education. In 2014 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.



Mission of Professional Higher Education

In the area of the mission of professional higher education, 2014 continued to be centred around the HAPHE project. Starting from October 2012, the HAPHE project has conducted important research on the current state of development of professional higher education across European countries, setting the ground for further profiling of the sector. This year we have dedicated ourselves to bring forward a definition and set of characteristics of PHE, and undergo a large-scale validation process. Through a set of 12 national events we have reached more than 200 stakeholders, and with the support of several experts, presented the final outcomes. Our task is to make this definition live, promote it further, ensure its usage, and through the set of characteristics support higher education institutions in further profiling their programmes. The HAPHE project was closed with a seminar on PHE that took place in Otočec (Slovenia) on 16 and 17 October. Following the closing of the HAPHE project and high interest of EURASHE members for this topic, in December 2014, EURASHE established a Task Force on the Mission of PHE in Europe, with its kick-off meeting on 6 December in Vilnius (Lithuania). Bringing together HAPHE partners with other interested EURASHE members, this group has started discussing further engagements and initiatives EURASHE is to develop in the following years.



Quality of Higher Education

In 2014 in the area of quality of higher education, EURASHE published Lucien Bollaert's *A Manual for Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education – with a special focus on professional higher education*. First begun in 2012, the manual 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.

EURASHE also addressed the need to provide training and capacity building opportunities to members and other higher education institutions. This was realised with the third hands-on seminar on quality assurance. In addition, EURASHE also convened a round table on the quality of bridging higher education and higher vocational education and training, as both quality frameworks are evolving. Another topic addressed by EURASHE in 2014 is the 'hot topic' of excellence with the PHEExcel project. Our overall aim within the PHEExcel project is to support, develop and enhance excellence in PHE in Europe. To this end, we propose an enhancement process leading to the recognition of excellence in PHE, which supplements existing quality assurance and accreditation procedures. Finally one important activity of 2014 was the continuation of EURASHE's policy activities, with the endorsement of the revised Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the

European Higher Education Area (ESG) by the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG).



Modernising Professional Higher Education within Diversified Higher Education

The year 2014 started with publishing the 'EURASHE Initial Study on Employability among PHE Graduates in Europe', developed throughout 2013, and continued with a strong focus on employability throughout the year. The undergoing process of developing a Policy Paper on Employability was further stimulated during the year, bringing us to the round table organised on 9 December in Brussels (Belgium). The event brought together key stakeholders and experts in the field, and further discussed the responsibility of higher education in tackling this issue. A policy paper is expected to be published in the first half of 2015.

The 2014 Annual Conference entitled 'Qualifications for the Labour Market' brought together several high profile keynote speakers addressing the topic of cooperation with the labour market to the benefit of graduates. Following EURASHE's engagement with the European Commission's VET4EU2, in 2014 we have signed the pledge for the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, committing ourselves to further promote apprenticeships and stimulate links between higher education institutions and the world of work.

Further, EURASHE continued its involvement with the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL), with the revision of ECTS Users' Guide, as well as in addressing the topic of recognition of prior learning vocational education and training, short-cycle higher education etc. We have continued our strong involvement within the Bologna Follow-Up Group, and especially through our participation in the Structural Reform working

group, Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning working group and Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process working group.



Research, Development and Innovation

In 2014 EURASHE continued to develop its activities in the area of research, development and innovation, in support of its member institutions involved in applied research. Following strategic discussions in the membership of EURASHE, its Council decided to set up in a Task Force on Research, Development and Innovation. It will serve a forum for members to exchange on the topic, and to provide more 'support services' to members.

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 2014 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 throughout Europe. Activities include surveying the different existing approaches throughout EU-member states; setting out the defining characteristics of a 'professional' higher education programme; proposing a set of criteria of professional higher education. More at www.haphe.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 at www.eurashe.eu/ideas



PHEXcel

EURASHE is leader of the

PHEXcel project on Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence, running from 2013 to 2015. PHEXcel 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 and a set of principles and guidelines to assess excellence. The proposal derives from the consultations held within EURASHE and its membership, which identify that there is no instrument for benchmarking or assessing professional higher education's performance. More at www.phexcel.eurashe.eu



EMCOSU

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 at www.eurashe.eu/emcosu



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, amongst others, developing a best practices manual on the different items of learning mobility with non-industrialised countries. More at www.eurashe.eu/lemonoc



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), running from 2013 to 2017. HUMERIA aims at stimulating institutional cooperation and collaboration to enhance internationalisation. More at www.eurashe.eu/humeria



LLL-HUB

EURASHE is an associate partner of the LLL-HUB project on The Lifelong Learning Hub, running from 2013 to 2015. The LLL-HUB aims to create through a multilateral network a feeling of shared responsibility and ownership among relevant lifelong learning stakeholders. More at www.eurashe.eu/lll-hub



EUROGRADUATE

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 at 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. More at www.eurashe.eu/pl4sd



CeQuInt

EURASHE is in the Stakeholders' Group of the CeQuInt project on a Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation, running from 2013 to 2015. The objective of the CeQuInt project is to assess, reward and enhance the internationalisation of higher education. More at www.eurashe.eu/cequint



EQArep

EURASHE is in the Advisory Board of the EQArep project on Transparency of European higher education through public quality assurance reports, running from 2012 to 2014. The project aims at mapping the current publication practices, and exploring the different needs of stakeholders for transparent and comparable information. More at www.eurashe.eu/eqarep



QACHE

EURASHE is in the Advisory Board of the QACHE project on Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education, running from 2013 to 2015. The QACHE project aims to address, in terms of information and practical support, the quality assurance of cross-border higher education. More at www.eurashe.eu/qache

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 2014 EURASHE organised its 24th Annual Conference, a thematic seminar on quality assurance, two seminars on professional higher education, two round tables on employability and on quality and also co-organised the 9th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF):



24th Annual Conference: Qualifications for the Labour Market

EURASHE organised its 24th

Annual Conference: 'Qualifications for the Labour Market' in Yerevan (Armenia) on 15-16 May 2014. Europe is facing high unemployment of young people due to the strenuous economic climate, as well as to a mismatch of qualifications, programmes of study and qualifications that need to be more closely aligned and responsive to the needs of the world of work and the labour market, while taking into account the expertise and personality of every graduate.

The conference theme was developed in two tracks. The first day of the conference addressed the issue of the diversity of European systems and qualifications and their supporting policies with the introduction by Don F. Westerheijden who introduced the audience to the latest advancement of U-Multirank. The second day focused on the cooperation between education and business for supporting employability. The topic was introduced by Anita Lice representing BUSINESSEUROPE and Armen Budaghyan and Kristina Taturyan from the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science. The main conference keynote speaker was Jim Allen from the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market at Maastricht University who addressed the issue of higher education graduates in the 21st century.

The conference was especially well attended by Armenian participants, and provided a rich

social programme, including the concert of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.



Seminar on PHE: Building bridges for a more professional higher education

Presenting the outcomes of the HAPHE project, on 16 and 17 October, EURASHE organised the Seminar on PHE: 'Building bridges for a more professional higher education'. Co-organised by the 10 HAPHE partners, the seminar was developed through the outcomes of the project, structuring the programme with the key characteristics of PHE: policy and strategy, teaching and learning, and research, development and innovation. Gathering more than 75 participants from 19 countries, the seminar welcomed Antonio Silva Mendes, Director for Education and Vocational Training from the DG Education and Culture of the European Commission. This opportunity was used to sign a pledge of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Among others, participants especially appreciated the keynote speech by Markus Lecke, Head of Education Policy at Deutsche Telekom AG.



Seminar on QA: How to Manage Quality in (Professional) Higher Education? – A Practical

Approach

EURASHE organised a Seminar on ‘How to Manage Quality in (Professional) Higher Education? – A Practical Approach’ in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 3-4 December 2014 hosted by Vilnius Kolegija/University of Applied Sciences (VIKO). EURASHE has committed itself to provide hands-on support to higher education institutions in the implementation of the priority areas of the Bologna Process. Lucien Bollaert’s Manual for Internal Quality Assurance was officially launched during the seminar. Next to the several representatives of professional higher education, participants had the opportunity to learn more from quality assurance agencies as well as student representatives. In addition, the Vice-Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and a representative of the European Commission provided the views of policy-makers.



EU Validation Seminar: Defining Professional Higher Education

Following the development of the definition of professional higher education within the HAPHE project, a validation process took place in several European countries. On 5 February, EURASHE hosted the ‘EU Validation Seminar’, bringing together 20 stakeholders. During this half-day event, participants have been presented with the process and the final outcomes of the work and have discussed the proposed definition and characteristics of professional higher education.



Round Table on Employability

EURASHE’s working group on Employability and Lifelong Learning hosted on 9

December in Brussels (Belgium) a round table on

employability which gathered the main stakeholders and experts in the field, including colleagues from EUA (universities), ESU (students), EUROCHAMBRES (chambers of commerce) as well as from the European Commission. The main contribution was delivered by Jim Allen, researcher for Education and Labour Market at the Maastricht University.



Round Table on QA HVET-HE

On 12 December 2014 EURASHE gathered in Warsaw (Poland) a Round Table on Quality Assurance of Bridging Higher

Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education with the Conference of Rectors of State Schools of Higher Vocational Education in Poland (KRePSZ). It gave the opportunity to EURASHE members to discuss a holistic approach to quality assurance processes and the imperative need for quality culture in both sectors.



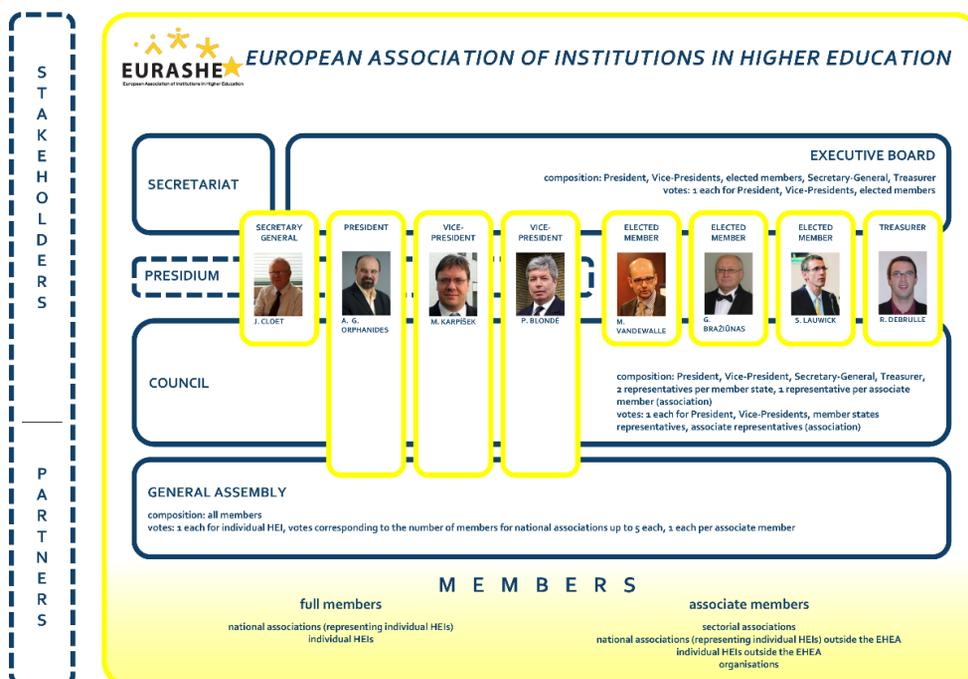
9th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF): Changing education – QA and the shift from teaching

to learning

The E4-Group organised the 9th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF): Changing education – QA and the shift from teaching to learning in Barcelona (Spain) on 13-15 November 2015. Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2014 edition of EQAF combined practice oriented and research based discussions. This year EURASHE took centre stage, presenting the Manual for Internal Quality Assurance, as well as the work of the HAPHE and PHEExcel projects.

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 2014 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 (January-May)
- Johan Cloet (Belgium), Secretary General (May-December)

Secretariat

In 2014 the Secretariat of EURASHE was composed of:

- Alexandre Wipf (France), policy and communications officer
- Marko Grdošić (Croatia), project manager
- Alja Kiseleva (Belgium), membership and administration officer

Meetings

In 2014 the bodies of EURASHE met on the following occasions:

- EURASHE WG5 – Quality of HE (1st meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 21 Jan 2014
- EURASHE WG6 – Employability & LLL (1st meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 7 Feb 2014
- EURASHE Board meeting (1st meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 7 Feb 2014
- EURASHE Council meeting (1st meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 8 Feb 2014
- EURASHE WG5 – Quality of HE (2nd meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 18 Mar 2014
- EURASHE 2014 General Assembly, Yerevan (Armenia), 14 May 2014
- EURASHE Members' Dialogue, Yerevan (Armenia), 14 May 2014
- EURASHE WG6 – Employability & LLL (2nd meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 26 Jun 2014
- EURASHE Workshop on Modernisation of Higher Education, Brussels (Belgium), 3 Sep 2014
- EURASHE Board meeting (2nd meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 4 Sep 2014
- EURASHE Council meeting (2nd meeting 2014), Brussels (Belgium), 4 Sep 2014
- EURASHE Board meeting (3rd meeting 2014), Vilnius (Lithuania), 5 Dec 2014
- EURASHE Council meeting (3rd meeting 2014), Vilnius (Lithuania), 5 Dec 2014
- EURASHE Task Force on the Mission of Professional Higher Education (1st meeting 2014), Vilnius (Lithuania), 6 Dec 2014

Council

EURASHE's Council is the policy-making body of the association. It determines the overall policy of the association. In 2014 it discussed amongst others developments in the membership of EURASHE, including its membership fee system.

'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. The working group steered EURASHE's contribution to the Manual for Internal Quality Assurance published in 2014.

Task force on research, development and innovation

To further support its members, EURASHE decided in 2014 to establish a task force on research, development and innovation. Its first meeting took place in early 2015.

Policy sessions

EURASHE organises policy sessions for its members to present and highlight the latest developments in higher education on the European level. Two such sessions were organised in 2014.

'Working group 6' on employability and lifelong learning

The working group on employability and lifelong learning, also dealing with recognition of prior learning and short-cycle higher education, especially supervised in 2014 the development of EURASHE's Initial Study on Employability.

Task force on the mission of professional higher education

EURASHE established in 2014 a task force on the mission of professional higher education following the end of the HAPHE project. It gathered for the first time in Vilnius in December and will lead EURASHE's activities 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 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/german

Español at www.eurashe.eu/spanish

Français at www.eurashe.eu/french

Nederlands at www.eurashe.eu/dutch

Português at www.eurashe.eu/portuguese

Русский at www.eurashe.eu/russian

Српски at www.eurashe.eu/serbian



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