



**MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION**

**between**

**the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)**

**and**

**the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)**

**May 2008**

## **1. Introduction to the Memorandum of Co-operation**

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) is the global network of quality assurance agencies in higher education. It exists to

- enable quality assurance agencies to share information and experiences;
- lead the theoretical and practical foundations of the profession;
- develop and promote standards of professional practice in QA; and
- encourage and assist continuous improvement in member agencies, including professional development and capacity-building for the benefit of HE institutions, their students and their societies.

The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) exists to

- promote European co-operation in the field of quality assurance in higher education;
- represent its members (i.e. quality assurance organisations from EHEA member states operating in the field of higher education) at the European level;
- disseminate information on experience, good practice and new developments in the field of quality assessment and quality assurance in higher education to stakeholders, namely to public authorities, higher education institutions, students and quality assurance agencies;
- function as a policy forum, developing and proposing standards, procedures and guidelines for quality assurance;
- fulfil requests for expertise and advice from European Ministers of Education, public authorities and other bodies associated with the EHEA;
- facilitate quality assurance activities in the area of transnational higher education;
- promote the development and implementation of effective peer-review systems for quality assurance and accreditation agencies;
- contribute to the Bologna Process and to the creation of the EHEA.

Recognising their mutual interest in the quality of higher education and higher education institutions, it is in the interests of INQAAHE and ENQA to formalise a memorandum of co-operation between the two organisations and to establish the objectives, parameters and resources for joint activities and mutual support.

The memorandum of co-operation covers the following areas.

## **2. The nature of the relationship between INQAAHE and ENQA**

The two organisations will work in co-operation to enhance understanding of each other's particular concerns and priorities, and to promote common activities at the regional and international levels.

### **3. Overall objectives of this Memorandum**

This Memorandum is intended to reinforce and provide a platform for the desired co-operation between INQAAHE and ENQA. It aims at strengthening the work of INQAAHE and its member agencies, and the work of ENQA and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with the overall goal of enhanced global understanding and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. It also aims at increasing contacts and cooperation between the various regional networks that are working together with INQAAHE.

The Memorandum sets out the detailed areas in which co-operation may be possible and the desired consequences of that co-operation.

More detailed objectives are as follows.

### **4. Exchange of information**

The two organisations will exchange non-confidential policy documents and relevant non-confidential operational information to enable the two organisations to support and learn from each other, and disseminate information on each others' events and projects.

### **5. Promotion of common aims**

The two organisations share an interest in developing, promoting and implementing *internationally accepted standards* for quality assurance in higher education, INQAAHE through the Guidelines for Good Practice in QA (GGP) and ENQA through the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). INQAAHE and ENQA will promote convergence, stocktaking and benchmarking actions related to the GGP and ESG, and to any other internationally accepted principles.

The two organisations share an interest in developing *adequate peer review systems* for quality assurance agencies. INQAAHE organises, on request, reviews of its member agencies and, through the GGP, promotes standards for use in the self and external evaluation of external quality assurance agencies. ENQA co-ordinates, on request, membership reviews based on its membership criteria and thus on the ESG. All of ENQA member agencies have to undergo a review based on ESG each five years in order to maintain their membership in the association. In addition, ENQA is a founding member of the European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR) that has the same requirements for agencies as ENQA has for its membership.

INQAAHE and ENQA will promote convergence, stocktaking and benchmarking actions related to the mentioned peer review systems. In addition, deeper cooperation will be sought as regards the training and exchange of experts. Staff exchange, courses, internships and meetings of officers between ENQA and INQAAHE, as well as between ENQA and all the regional networks working together with INQAAHE, will be encouraged. ENQA and INQAAHE will collaborate to foster new initiatives, to undertake relevant QA projects and to stimulate research in the

field of quality assurance of higher education. ENQA and INQAAHE will also cooperate in new fields of quality assurance, such as transnational education and e-Learning, in order to identify good practise and to develop guidelines.

## **6. Resources**

The two organisations will cover their own costs for the co-operation, unless there is project funding available for some fields of collaboration.

## **7. Targets**

If possible, the following activities will be carried out during the next three years:

- Regular meetings and participation of representatives of the two organisations in each others' events.
- Exchange of information on each others' activities.
- Exchange of expertise.
- Mutual consultations and discussions on current quality assurance issues, involving also the other regional networks.

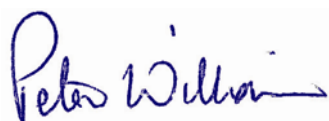
## **8. Agency Officers responsible for managing the Agreement**

The President of INQAAHE and the President of ENQA will have responsibility for managing the Memorandum of Co-operation. Either party may delegate the responsibility from time to time in relation to particular areas of co-operation. The President of INQAAHE will appoint a member of the INQAAHE Board to exercise the overall responsibility for this Memorandum on behalf of INQAAHE. ENQA will appoint its Secretary General to exercise the overall responsibility for this memorandum on behalf of ENQA.

## **9. Signatures**

There are two identical copies of this Memorandum, one for each signatory.

9 May 2008,



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**Mr Peter Williams**  
**President**  
**ENQA**

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**Dr David Woodhouse**  
**President**  
**INQAAHE**

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