

MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION

**between the
International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in
Higher Education**

**and the
Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance
Agencies in Higher Education**

Month Year

October, 2008

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**between the
International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
and the
Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher
Education (CEE Network)**

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 Higher Education institutions, their students and their societies.

The objectives of the CEE Network are

- to share experiences and to foster cooperation among member agencies
- to exchange information about background, aims, procedures and outcomes of activities of member agencies
- to recommend experts
- to serve as a clearing house for issues on quality assurance in higher education in the Central and Eastern European countries
- to assist each other in elaborating measures for harmonizing activities in quality assurance, in order to participate in the European dimension of higher education, and to play a proactive role in shaping the European higher education area
- to open common possibilities in launching new projects for the sake of better quality in higher education and build consortia for joint activities, including the applications to funds.

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

The memorandum of co-operation covers the following areas.

1. The nature of the relationship between INQAAHE and the CEE Network

“INQAAHE wishes to strengthen its links with the other networks in order to be able to advocate for the interests of the totality of regional networks and their members. It also needs the operational and political input from the regions to help ensure that INQAAHE’s agenda is aligned with the regional development and that of the members of the local networks.”
(*Networks of Quality Agencies: Working Together, INQAAHE position paper, October 2007*)

Within the Central and Eastern European area, the CEE Network comprises nationally recognized quality assurance agencies in the Central and Eastern European region. It is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation.

The two organisations will work to enhance their understanding of each other's particular concerns and priorities.

2. Relation of INQAAHE to the CEE Network

INQAAHE provides assistance to CEEN in the achievement of its objectives and its further development, including assistance in obtaining funding and other resources.

3. Relation of the CEE Network to INQAAHE

The CEE Network presents information about quality assurance practiced by its member agencies in the Central and Eastern European Region.

4. Overall objectives of this Memorandum

This Memorandum is intended to reinforce and provide a reference point for the desired co-operation between INQAAHE and the CEE Network. It aims at strengthening the work of the INQAAHE and its member agencies and the work of the CEE Network and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with the overall goal of enhance 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.

More detailed objectives are as follows.

5. 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.

6. Resources

Unless a specific contract is agreed, the two organisations will normally cover their own costs 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:

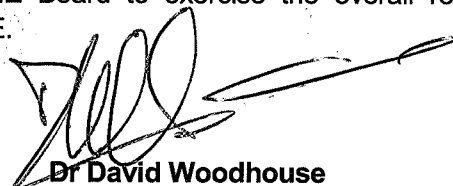
- Regular meetings and participation of representatives of the two organizations in each others' events.
- Exchange of information on each others' activities.
- Exchange of expertise.
- Mutual consultations and discussions on current quality assurance issues, involving also the other regional networks.

Agency Officers responsible for managing the Agreement

The President of INQAAHE and the President of the CEE Network 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.



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