

## ECA TRAINING “ASSESSING JOINT PROGRAMMES”

*Dates:* Thursday 27 and Friday 28 October 2016

*Location:* magdas hotel, Laufberggasse 12, 1020 Vienna, Austria

Joint programmes require specific attention when being assessed. This means that these assessments take into account the specificities of joint programmes: responsibilities within consortia, coordination of teaching and learning, grade conversion across borders, overall learning outcomes across (umpteen) locations, etc. National approaches to assess joint programmes as well as the legal requirements can vary a lot.

Last year the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes has been adopted by Ministers of Higher Education at their meeting in Yerevan. This approach has been based to a large extent on the experiences of ECA with accrediting joint programmes (JOQAR project). The expectation is that joint programmes will be increasingly assessed according to the European Approach. The training will focus on the European Approach whilst also paying attention to national systems that constitute the context in which QA decisions take place and are the modus operandi for the HEIs providing a joint programme.

This training suitably prepares participants regarding the aim of external quality assurance for joint programmes, the use of audit techniques and the interpretation and substantiation of assessment criteria. The framework of the European Approach is used to highlight different interpretations of (the use of) standards and underlying substantiations.

*Target audience:*

This training is tailored for experts who (will) take part in the assessment of joint programmes and for the staff of quality assurance agencies with a responsibility for assessing joint programmes.

*Level:*

Medium. This is appropriate for experts and staff of quality assurance agencies with some experience in external quality assurance procedures, though not necessarily with joint programmes.

### Learning outcomes:

After actively taking part in this training, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the national and international context of joint programmes, national and European approaches and legislative frameworks;
2. Illustrate the different types of joint programmes and the degrees these joint programme can award;
3. Organise an appropriate and effective external assessment of a joint programme;
4. Ask relevant and appropriate questions to interviewees during the site visit
5. Make substantiated assessments according to the criteria of the European Approach.

### Preliminary Schedule:

Thursday 27 October 2016

---

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 12.00 | Arrival and light lunch  |
| 13.00 | <b>Introductions, needs and objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are you?</li> <li>• What do you need to know?</li> <li>• How can we learn effectively?</li> </ul>  |
| 13.30 | <b>What are joint programmes?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terminology</li> <li>• Consortia and responsibilities</li> <li>• Trends and developments</li> </ul>   |
| 14.00 | <b>How are joint programmes assessed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National, joint and single assessments</li> <li>• Accreditation and recognition</li> <li>• Understanding the legal issues</li> </ul>  |
| 14.30 | Coffee break   |
| 15.00 | <b>How to organise an assessment of a joint programme?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deciding on an appropriate approach</li> <li>• Standards in the European Approach</li> <li>• The procedure according to the European Approach</li> </ul>         |
| 16.00 | <b>The self-evaluation report: what do you need to know?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish must have from nice to have</li> <li>• Looking for (in)consistencies, the knowns and unknowns</li> <li>• Introduction of the case study</li> </ul> |
| 16.30 | Coffee break   |
| 16.45 | <b>The site visit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location and organisation of the day(s)</li> <li>• Knowing and playing your role</li> <li>• Intercultural awareness and appropriate interview techniques</li> </ul>                                   |
| 17.15 | <b>Preparing the interviews (group work)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What to ask and to whom?</li> </ul>  |
| 18.00 | Closure of first day   |
| 19.00 | Dinner   |

*Friday 28 October 2016*

---

- 09.00    **The interviews (group work)**
  - Role play
  - Plenary feedback
- 10.30    Coffee break
- 11.00    **Assessing and reporting (group work)**
  - Making assessments and substantiating judgements
  - Plenary feedback
  - Report-writing and decision-making
- 12.30    **Conclusions, feedback and award of certificates**
- 13.00    Closure and lunch

*Facilitators:*

- Ronny Heintze, M.A., AQAS
- Dr. Katarina Löbel, Referentin für Internationales, AQAS
- Dr. Mark Frederiks, NVAO & ECA

The facilitators have experience with assessing joint programmes on both the national and European level.

*Completion of training:*

All participants who have completed the training will receive a ECA training certificate testifying that they have participated in the training. The training certificate allows participants to register themselves in the ECA Experts Exchange Platform (EEEP). QA agencies carrying out assessment procedures of joint programmes may search the EEEP to find suitable experts.

*Training fee:*

Participation in this training costs 270 euro for ECA members (i.e. staff from QA agencies that are member of ECA) and 400 euro for non-ECA members (this includes experts who work for ECA member agencies). The training fee covers the costs of the training and venue, the hotel room (*magdas hotel*, Laufberggasse 12, 1020 Vienna) for one night from 27 to 28 October, dinner on 27 October, lunches on 27 and 28 October and coffee breaks on both days. The fee does not cover any travel costs. Participants will be required to arrange their own transport to and from the venue. After confirmation of participation ECA will send an invoice. The fee needs to be paid prior to participation.

*Register now for this training*

Your registration for this training is possible through writing an e-mail with your name and organisation to [secretariat@ecahe.eu](mailto:secretariat@ecahe.eu).

After receiving your e-mail we will let you know whether it is still possible to participate in the training. If we cannot offer you a place this time your name will be recorded on a waiting list and you will have priority when the training is organised again.