EQANIE Cooperation with National External Quality Assurance Agencies

External quality assurance of higher education institutions and programmes is one of the key features of the European Higher Education Area. In many countries, institutions and/or programmes are obliged to carry out such an external quality assurance procedure (accreditation, evaluation, audit or similar) with their national agency or another agency listed on the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR). The common ground for the operation of these agencies is normally the "European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education" (ESG).

EQANIE and subject-specific accreditation for informatics

In addition to the general, national accreditation, higher education institutions may wish for a subject-specific and international approach to their external quality assurance process, in particular where that external review is programme-based.

The European Quality Assurance Network for Accreditation of Informatics Education (EQANIE) is an independent, not-for-profit association of academic and professional informatics associations all over Europe.

Together, they have developed the Euro-Inf Framework Standards which contain ideal programme outcomes for Bachelor and Master level study programmes in informatics (or similar named programmes). The European Euro-Inf label can be awarded to programmes which comply with these standards.

Collaboration Proposal for informatics degree programmes

In order to facilitate the application of programmes for the award of the Euro-Inf Label, EQANIE offers its collaboration to external quality assurance agencies. Principally, an EQANIE review for the award of the Euro-Inf label can be combined with any external, programme based review, independent of whether the national agency takes a formal decision.

EQANIE works with national agencies in the following way:

1. Upon reception of a request, EQANIE sets up an ad-hoc agreement with national agency.

2. Depending on the previous experience:
   - Comparison of accreditation standards (normally in line with ESG, part I)
   - Comparison of accreditation procedures (normally in line with ESG, part II)
   - Elaboration of joint set of standards, and/or, where applicable,
     → added EQANIE standards (LO standards) complementary to national standards – in all cases, the intended programme learning outcomes of the programme under

review must be matched against the Euro-Inf programme learning outcomes for assessment by the reviewers

3. Nomination of 1-2 subject-specific reviewers from EQANIE, complimentary to experts nominated by national agency

4. Implementation of external review, which contains at least the following elements:
   - Self-Evaluation Report on the basis of joint set of standards, including mapping matrix to EQANIE learning outcomes
   - Site-visit by expert panel
   - External report written by national agency based on joint set of standards (minimum requirement: alignment with EQANIE LO standards)

5. Decision by EQANIE Accreditation Committee about award of Euro-Inf Label; decision about national accreditation, by national agency if applicable;

6. Publication on EQANIE website

The specific details for each of the above steps will be elaborated on a case-by-case basis with the national agency.

EQANIE will have to raise a fee for its services, including in case of positive assessment, the award of the Euro-Inf Label, to the HEIs or national agencies.

For further information, please contact EQANIE's Secretary General, Ms. Jana Möhren (moehren@eqanie.eu; +49 211 900 977 26)

EQANIE
European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education

The Euro-Inf Quality Label for informatics education

The Euro-Inf framework and accreditation system provides a set of standards that identifies high quality informatics and computer science degree programmes in Europe and abroad.

The Euro-Inf system incorporates the views and perspectives of the main stakeholders (students, higher education institutions, employers, professional organisations and accreditation agencies).

What are the benefits of Euro-Inf?

The Euro-Inf system is internationally recognised and facilitates both academic and professional mobility.

A list of programmes which have been awarded the Euro-Inf Label is available on the EQANIE website.

Benefits for Higher Education Institutions

- Additional certificate of quality
- Means of promotion: programme meets academic and professional standards
- Benchmarking against other programmes
- Reliable information on quality of Bachelor programme for admission to Master programmes
- Incentive for students to choose programme

Benefits for Students

- Assurance that programme meets high international standards
- Easier access to Euro-Inf Master programmes
- Additional quality label recognized by employers Europe-wide
- International recognition of degree meeting professional standards

Benefits for Employers

- Applicants knowledge and competences meet international standards
- Reliable information about quality of degree programme without knowing its details
- Not only academic standards checked but also relevance for the profession

Applying for the Euro-Inf Label

EQANIE can collaborate with your national quality assurance agency for the award of the Euro-Inf label. Please contact them for further information.