

BRUSSELS (BELGIUM), 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

# QUALITY ASSURANCE in Continuing Education Programmes at Higher Education Institutions: tools developed in a European perspective

*Advanced knowledge-based societies require innovative and creative educational systems able to answer immediately to specific needs of the evolving and changing labour market and of society in general. In this context, Higher Education Institutions play a fundamental role in providing research-based higher education for lifelong learners to create opportunities, even for well specialized and graduate professionals, for advanced specialization and/or for improving and updating personal skills and competences. Parallel to the growing number of Continuing Education Programmes at Higher Education Institutions and other educational providers, the need for appropriate quality assurance systems for these kinds of programmes has also grown. This has been the background for the project "Quality Assurance for HEIs' Continuing Education Programmes" (QACEP) in which eight European Institutions are involved. The project is aimed at developing a general framework for quality assurance of Continuing Education Programmes offered by HEIs and at elaborating practical tools for their quality improvement.*



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## OBJECTIVES

The conference is the occasion:

- to discuss key opportunities and challenges concerning the growing of Continuing Education Programmes at Higher Education Institutions;
- to discuss the need for appropriate quality assurance for these programmes and have an overview on the final results of the European project QACEP;
- to participate in interactive discussions on specific experiences in the field of quality improvement of Continuing Education Programmes at Higher Education Institutions with representatives of HEIs and European Institutions, Continuing Education Programmes coordinators and other relevant stakeholders.

## PARTICIPANTS

The conference provides an opportunity for discussion and exchange of experiences among staff of Higher Education Institutions and other key stakeholders working in Quality Assurance, Higher Education Continuing Education and more generally on lifelong learning issues. Specifically, the conference will be of interest to Continuing Education Programme managers and coordinators, teachers/academics, governing bodies and officers responsible for Quality Assurance and Continuing Education in Higher Education.

## REGISTRATION

Conference has no registration fee but the number of placements is limited.

To register and for further information visit the event web page:

[www.qacep.eu/Pages/BruxellesConference.aspx](http://www.qacep.eu/Pages/BruxellesConference.aspx)

## VENUE

The conference takes place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2011, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at

Fondation Universitaire / Universitaire Stichting, Marnix meeting room

Rue d'Egmont, 11 Egmontstraat

B - 1000 Brussels

## CONTACTS



**QACEP Brussels Conference Organisation**

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**QACEP Project Coordination**

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CONFERENCE

09.00-10.00:

Registration of participants

10.00-10.45:

Opening

*Prof. Dorothy Kelly - Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group and University of Granada (ES)  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Relations*

### QUALITY ASSURANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN EUROPE

*Key note speaker: Dr. Endika Bengoetxea - Policy Officer - European Commission - DG Education and Culture*

10.45-13.00:

### DEVELOPING SYSTEMS FOR THE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS' CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

*Prof. Carla Salvaterra - University of Bologna, Vice Rector for International Relations*

10.45-11.30: Presentation of QACEP project findings

How to describe and analyse institutions state of the art with regard to its Continuing Education  
Programmes and quality assurance system in place

*Jan Raeymaekers - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (University of Leuven, BE), Office for Educational Policy*

Guiding principles for a Quality Framework

*Anna-Kaarina Kairamo - Aalto University (FI), Professional Development (Aalto PRO)*

Developing tools for a quality improvement adapted approach to Higher Education Institutions  
Continuing Education Programmes

*Norma Ryan - University College Cork (IE), Quality Promotion Unit*

11.30-12.00: Coffee break

12.00-12.30: Recommendations for quality development in university continuing education programmes

The SWISSUNI and the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ) experience

*Hans-Rudolf Frey - ETH Zurich, Centre for Continuing Education*

*Rayk Sprecher - University of Lucerne, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

12.30-13.00: Discussion with the audience and the Morning Session speakers

13.00-14.30: Lunch

14.30-16.30:

### TOOLS AND PILOT EXPERIENCES IN IMPLEMENTING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OF HEIS' CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

*Chair: Prof. Wim Van Petegem - University of Leuven, Media and Learning Policy Unit*

14.30-14.45: QACEP project pilot: self-evaluating Continuing Education Programmes  
and monitoring participants' feedbacks

*Cinzia Castelluccio - University of Bologna, Quality Assurance Unit*

*Matteo Sgarzi - Consorzio Universitario AlmaLaurea*

14.45-15.30: Discussion on experiences presented by programme managers and coordinators  
from institutions in QACEP Consortium

*Aalto Pro (Finland), University of Bologna (Italy), Institute for Lifelong Learning - UB (Spain),*

*University of Leuven (Belgium), University College Cork (Ireland), University of Warsaw (Poland)*

15.30-16.30: Round table

Cooperation with external stakeholders to improve the Quality of HEIs' Continuing Education Programmes

*Chair: Prof. Norma Ryan - University College Cork (IE), Quality Promotion Unit*

*Participants: Prof. Olga Pujolras Gonzales (University of Barcelona, Quality Assurance Agency), Michael Gaebel (European University Association, Higher Education Policy Unit), Marta Bronzo (Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, European Desk) and a representative of EUCEN (to be confirmed)*

16.30-17.00:

Conclusions

*Prof. Dorothy Kelly - Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group and University of Granada (ES)  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Relations*

Programme as of 15 June 2011. Further information on the web page [www.qacep.eu/Pages/BruxellesConference.aspx](http://www.qacep.eu/Pages/BruxellesConference.aspx)

OPENING

MORNING SESSION

AFTERNOON SESSION



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QACEP BRUSSELS CONFERENCE PROGRAMME