

**For the attention of the London Ministerial meeting:
Contribution of ENQA to the Bologna Process
- developments since the Bergen Ministerial meeting**

1. E4 Group

ENQA has participated actively in the work of the E4 Group (ENQA, ESIB, EUA and EURASHE). The nine E4 meetings since May 2005 have concentrated on developing the practicalities of implementation of the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies and on the organisation of the European Quality Forums 2006 and 2007. ENQA has briefed the BFUG and BFUGB regularly on the E4 activities and submitted a final report on the European Register to the BFUG in March 2007.

2. Organisational change and external reviews of the ENQA member agencies

ENQA has gone through a considerable organisational change over the past two years. It has become an independent membership association and developed its membership criteria to correspond to the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)*. Consequently, starting from 2005, ENQA members are required to undergo an external review on a five-yearly basis. The reviews examine whether the agencies meet the ENQA membership criteria and, thereby, the ESG. The reviews are normally organised through national arrangements but, if this is not possible or the agency so requests, they can also be co-ordinated by ENQA. ENQA has published a set of *National Review Guidelines*, which provide guidance on the characteristics of national reviews that will be necessary for acceptance by ENQA for its membership purposes. Three agencies have so far had their ENQA membership reconfirmed on the basis of their national reviews. The decisions are taken by the ENQA Board on the basis of a rigorous examination of the review reports. Approximately ten member agencies are expected to undergo an external review in 2007.

3. Bologna-related activities

Since the Bergen summit, the following ENQA workshops and seminars contributing to the goals of the European Higher Education Area have taken place:

- *After the Bergen Ministerial meeting - results and stocktaking on subsidiarity and convergence*, Paris, 9-10 June 2005;
- *Employer involvement in quality assurance*, Berlin, - November 2005;
- *Improvement and Development of Evaluation Methodologies*, Birmingham, 8-9 December 2005;
- *Language of European Quality Assurance* University of Warwick, 29-30 June 2006;
- *Student involvement in external quality assurance*, Madrid, 19-20 October 2006;
- *Implementation of Part 3 of the European Standards and Guidelines*, Vienna, 4-5 December 2006 (with contributions from the CEEN network).

In 2006 ENQA conducted a review of the present accreditation and quality assurance practices in Portuguese higher education, resulting in a final report *Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Portugal - An Assessment of the Existing System and*



Recommendations for a Future System as well as the Quality Convergence Study II, concentrating on terminology and epistemology of quality assurance. The Transnational European Evaluation Project II (TEEP II) was concluded in August 2006 with the publication of a *Methodological report*. In 2006 ENQA also published two reports from the European regional networks, both dealing with the ESG: *Mapping External Quality Assurance in Central and Eastern Europe* by CEEN and *European Standards and Guidelines in a Nordic Perspective* by NOQA. Other recent publications include: *Student involvement in external quality assurance* and *Terminology of quality assurance*.

