

ENQA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Sèvres, 26-27 October 2017

Biographies of the Speakers



Axel Aerden

Axel Aerden is Managing Director Flanders at the Accreditation Organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). He has 17 years of experience in internal and external quality assurance. He has designed quality assurance models and contributed to internationalisation topics from a quality assurance perspective. He coordinated the Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation (CeQuInt), a European-wide approach to assess the quality of internationalisation at programme and institutional level, on behalf of the European Consortium for Accreditation. He has specific expertise in the quality assurance of joint programmes and the design and assessment of learning outcomes. Before joining NVAO, he contributed to policy-making at various levels of higher education: university, national representative association, European member organisation, and as adviser to the Minister of Education.



Rui Amaral Mendes

Professor Rui Amaral Mendes is a graduate of the University of Porto and holds a PhD in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Pathology from the VU Universiteit Amsterdam. Since August 2015, he holds a position at Case Western Reserve University. Before that, he has held positions as Professor of Oral Medicine, Oral Oncology and Oral Surgery at the Catholic University of Portugal, where he was also Clinical Director of the University Dental Clinic, Director of the Integrated Master in Dental Medicine and Director of Specialized Master's Degree in Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Pathology. He was also Visiting Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Michigan until 2014. He is a researcher at the "Center for Research in Higher Education Policies" and member of the Executive Committee of the Association for Dental Education in Europe and ASPIRE / AMEE - Association for Medical Education in Europe. He is Associate Editor of the British Medical Journal - Case Reports and the Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine, a member of the editorial board for Oral Diseases, and an active reviewer for several scientific journals.



Cristóbal Cobo

Cristóbal Cobo (Phd) is Director of the Center for Research – Ceibal Foundation in Uruguay, and associate researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford (UK). He works at the intersection of the future of education, knowledge, technology, and heutagogy. He has been distinguished by the British Council of Economic and Social Research (ESRC). He has served as external Evaluator for the National Science Foundation and MIT Press (US). He has PhD “cum laudem” Communication Sciences at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is co-author of the book Invisible Learning and in 2016 he published “Innovación Pendiente” (Penguin Random House). He has been speaker in more than 30 countries (+ 4 TEDx). More information: <http://www.cristobalcobo.net/about/>



Eva Fernández de Labastida

Eva Fernández de Labastida has been working in Unibasq – the Agency for Quality of the Basque University System since March 2009. She studied at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) and has a PhD in Food Science and Technology. In her work for Unibasq she is responsible for the coordination, organisation and implementation of the accreditation procedures in the universities of the Basque University System, including training of peers for accreditations. She has participated in several institutional audits and study programmes accreditations as a panel coordinator. In addition, she is in charge of the international activities of Unibasq, currently taking part in several working groups in different networks, such as ENQA and ECA, related with joint programmes, academic recognition and employability.



Esther Huertas

Esther Huertas, PhD, received her qualification as Agronomist Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and her B.S. (Food Science and Technology) and M.S. (Environmental Sciences) degrees from the University of Barcelona. She has also received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Barcelona. In her first appointment, she served as researcher at the University of Barcelona and followed her professional activity as an assistant professor at the University of Barcelona for three years. She began to collaborate with AQU Catalunya as a student expert at TEEP II project, and in 2006 she got a position at the Agency. She is currently the work package leader of quality assurance in online higher education in TeSLA project (<http://tesla-project.eu/>) and the chair of ENQA's working group on e-learning. Previously, she was involved at virtual programme evaluation at the Open University of Catalunya.



Helka Kekäläinen

Helka Kekäläinen holds a PhD from University of Helsinki. She led the FINHEEC secretariat June 2008–April 2014. Since May 2014, she has led the Higher Education and Liberal Adult Education Unit in FINHEEC. Before her position as the Secretary General, she worked three years in FINHEEC as Senior Advisor and became familiar with all evaluation processes and methods. Prior to working for FINHEEC, she was employed by the University of Helsinki. On top of her academic career, she was the acting professor of theatre research in Helsinki. In 2009, she became ENQA Board member and 2010 she was voted for the position of Vice-President of ENQA. She has been actively involved in capacity building projects, training of agency reviewers, ENQA surveys and review committee work. She was Executive Board member of European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education EQAR in 2011-2012.



Maria Kelo

Maria Kelo is the Director of ENQA, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education since 2011. She is also a Vice-President of the Executive Board of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). Prior to joining ENQA, she worked for nine years in the field of international higher education: as a trainee at the European Commission; as a research assistant at Eurydice (2003); as Senior Officer at the Academic Cooperation Association (2003-2009); as Programme Manager at EUA (2010); and as an independent consultant (2010-2011). She is a graduate of University College London (1996-2000) and the London School of Economics (2001-2002).



Bryan Maguire

Dr. Bryan Maguire is Director of Quality Assurance at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). He had served from 2005 as Director of Academic Affairs at the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, one of QQI's predecessor bodies. He was Head of School of Creative Technologies at Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Ireland and previously lectured in Bangor University, Wales. He holds a bachelor degree in psychology from University College, Dublin and a PhD from the University of California, San Francisco. He is a member of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications.



Heli Mattisen

Heli Mattisen (PhD) has long and successful experience in developing systems of internal and external quality assurance in higher education. She has participated in all stages of educational reforms - developing strategic plans, building up legislative frameworks and putting the plans into practice. She worked for 20 years at Tallinn University in different positions (professor, head of department, dean, vice rector). In 2009, she was elected as the Director of the newly founded Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education. She was responsible for launching the agency and development of the new external quality assurance system in HE and VET in Estonia. She has vast international experience. She has supported the elaboration of the state regulation for the quality assurance agency as well as the methodology for external assessments in Moldova. In 2015-2017, she has worked as Junior Project Leader of the Finnish-Estonian Twinning project in the Republic of Azerbaijan "Support to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Further Adherence of the Higher Education System to the European Higher Education Area" and participated as expert for institutional accreditation in Kazakhstan and Lithuania as well as for agency reviews in Germany and Kazakhstan.



Julie Nolland

Julie Nolland joined CTI, the French national accreditation body for engineering programmes ("Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs"), at the beginning of 2013. She is currently Quality Manager and International Project Manager. As such, she is in charge of the follow-up of the working group on Quality and Communication, and of the project management of quality related matters. At international level, she represents CTI abroad and participates in various organisations and working groups (ENAAE, EQAR, ECA, FraQ-Sup, IOQ, etc.), co-ordinates accreditation procedures abroad and organises events such as CTI's annual international symposium. Previously, she occupied different administrative and management positions in the sectors of fashion and historic monuments. She holds a master's degree in cinema and audio-visual art from Université Panthéon Sorbonne (Paris I) and is currently following a European research programme in Education Sciences in Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers.



Yoneko Nurtantio

Yoneko Nurtantio has been Project manager at AEQES, the agency responsible for assessing the quality of higher education in the French-speaking Community of Belgium, since January 2015. AEQES is embedded in the European context, being a member of ENQA, included on EQAR Register, and co-founder of the French-speaking network for HE quality assurance Agencies (FraQ-Sup). With the Executive unit, she is in charge of organising the external evaluations planned by the Agency. In 2017-2018, she will be in charge of the evaluation of the Dentistry schools. She is also in charge of recruiting the review panel members for AEQES. She graduated in 2014 in Classical and Oriental Languages and Literatures.



François Pernot

François Pernot is Director of the Europe and International Department (EID) at Hcéres (former AERES) since 2013. As such, he sits at Hcéres executive committee. His core missions are to strengthen the European and international dimension of Hcéres by developing international projects, partnerships with European and extra-European agencies; and to lead evaluations of foreign programs or institutions. In collaboration with Hcéres staff, he and the EID also managed the external evaluation procedure by ENQA and the renewal of registration by EQAR. He is particularly involved in the QA debates: he takes part in many ENQA events and is also a Board member at ECA.

As a professor in Early Modern History and Modern History at the University of Cergy-Pontoise (France), he is teaching in Bachelor, Master and Doctorate Degrees. He is also the author of books and contributions for colloquiums on War studies, political, military and diplomatic history of Modern Europe and European countries. He is Director of the Doctoral School “Law and Human sciences” of Paris-Seine University, member of the CNRS’s research unit AGORA and associate member of the CNRS’s research unit “SIRICE Sorbonne, Identités, relations internationales et civilisations de l’Europe of Paris- Sorbonne University”. He obtained in September 2017 the Jean Monnet European Chair: “War and Europe: Defense, Security, Heritage, Memory and Culture”.



Iring Wasser

Dr. Iring Wasser has been for the past 15 years the Managing Director of ASIIN, the German Accreditation Agency engaged in the field of institutional accreditation as well as program accreditation in Germany and more than 30 countries internationally. In the past ten years he has also served as Chief Executive Officer of ASIIN Consult GmbH, which is providing consultancy services to Higher Education Institutions, Quality Assurance Agencies and Ministries/Governments at a global level. After having studied public administration, international law and politics in universities in Germany, France and the United States, his professional career started in 1994 at the University of Stuttgart, where he served as personal assistant of its rector, before assuming the role of Managing Director of the Conference of Universities in the State of Lower Saxony, Germany, between 1997 and 2001. During 2010 he also worked as audit director for the Australian University Quality Agency.

He has had numerous leadership roles in international quality assurance networks throughout his career. During 2011-2015 he served as one of the directors of the board of the International Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE), he just finished his 3rd and final term as President of the Central and Easter European Network for Quality Assurance (CEENQA) and he is the current President of the European Alliance of Subject Specific and Professional Accreditation (EASPA).

For numerous years he has provided consultancy and training for HE institutions, agencies and ministries as an expert commissioned by diverse organisations such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the German Academic Exchange Service, the GIZ, OECD and other organisations. In recognition of his contributions for the development of the Kazakh HE sector and for assisting Kazakhstan to become a member in the European Higher Education Area, the National Agrarian University conveyed an honorary professorship to him.



Michèle P. Wera

Michèle P. Wera, MA, is senior policy advisor at the Accreditation Organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) in The Hague since 2004. She deals primarily with (initial) accreditation procedures of degree programmes and reviews of universities in the Netherlands and abroad. She has a special interest in the quality of medical education and research programmes. She was also secretary to NVAO's Executive Board until 2014. She is an ENQA trained reviewer, and participates in a variety of ENQA activities. She was also project manager of ARQATA, a three-year project (2011-2014) funded by the World Bank offering technical assistance on quality assurance in higher education in Armenia. The project also involved the pilot review of the Armenian quality assurance agency ANQA, two institutional audits, and a peer review of four programmes. Other international experience involves three institutional audits in Croatia and reviews of four off-shore medical schools in the Dutch Caribbean. At present, she is coordinating NVAO's application for WFME (World Federation for Medical Education) recognition in order to obtain ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) certification for the medical schools in the Netherlands and Flanders, and their graduates.

