



Press release – 22 December 2011

## **EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) admitted to European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)**

The European University Association (EUA) is pleased to announce that its independent Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) has (today) been admitted to the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

In most European countries, higher education institutions or study programmes are subject to regular external review by a quality assurance (QA) agency. Set up in 2008, the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) is a register of such agencies, listing those that substantially comply with a common set of principles for quality assurance in Europe, as laid down in the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.

Like the other QA agencies on the register, IEP carries out, on request, external reviews of HE institutions and has also completed external reviews of national education systems in a number of European countries (e.g. Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia). Since 1994, IEP has carried out close to 300 institutional evaluations. IEP evaluations are improvement oriented and intended first and foremost to support universities actively in fulfilling their mission in the context of their own stated goals and objectives. They do not lead to accreditation nor do they make any kind of summative judgement.

Chair of the IEP Steering Committee Professor Lothar Zechlin, commented: "We are delighted that the IEP has been admitted to the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education and feel that this decision recognises the importance of IEP's enhancement approach to quality assurance thus demonstrating respect for diversity in QA across Europe. Furthermore, IEP is the first QA body that was created with a broad European wide mandate to be listed in the Register. This decision will therefore be significant in terms of further development of the European quality assurance framework."

Launched in the context of the Bologna Process reforms, the Register aims to provide clear and objective information about trustworthy quality assurance agencies that are working in Europe. It also aims to help improve the quality of European higher education and to promote greater student mobility by increasing trust between higher education institutions.

Inclusion on the EQAR is voluntary and is based on compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance adopted by European Education Ministers in 2005. The Register provides a means for HE institutions, where national regulations permit, to choose between different agencies on the register.

To find out more about the Register please visit: [www.eqar.eu](http://www.eqar.eu)

To find out more about the IEP Programme please visit: [www.eua.be/iep](http://www.eua.be/iep)

Ends:

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