

NVAO-ECA Seminar “Employability and Quality Assurance” and ECA Meetings

Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 December 2014

Venue: NVAO offices, Parkstraat 28, The Hague, The Netherlands

Employability and quality assurance is a topic of continued interest throughout Europe. It features prominently in the latest European Commission’s progress report on quality assurance (QA). Whilst employability is relevant for all types of higher education institutions (HEIs), it is especially important for those institutions and study programmes that are dedicated to professional education.

On 9th December 2014 NVAO and ECA will organise a seminar where the results of a recent study by CHEPS (the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente) will be presented. This international comparative study was commissioned by NVAO and focuses on the employability of professional bachelors’ study programmes. The seminar will also pay attention to the agenda on employability and QA as proposed by the European Commission. In parallel sessions and in a panel of stakeholders good practices will be presented and recommendations discussed.

The seminar will be relevant for representatives of HEIs, QA agencies, employers, governments, and students who want to be informed on the development of employability-related practices in HEIs and the use of effective criteria and procedures in QA.

Target groups (invited participants) for seminar:

- ECA members
- QQI (Ireland) and German agencies involved in the CHEPS study
- Flemish, Dutch, Irish and German associations of HEIs and EURASHE
- BusinessEurope, and Dutch, Flemish, German, Irish employers associations
- European Commission and representatives of Ministries Flanders, Germany, Ireland, and Netherlands
- Representatives of HEIs from Benelux, Germany and Ireland, with priority for those involved in the CHEPS study
- ESU, Dutch, Flemish, German and Irish student associations
- Members of Board and Advisory Board NVAO

Tuesday 9 December

09.00 – 10.45 h *ECA Board meeting*

NVAO-ECA Seminar “Employability and Quality Assurance”

Draft Programme

Chair: Lucien Bollaert, Executive Board Member of NVAO and Board Member of ECA

- 10.30 – 11.00 Registration
- 11.00 – 11.15 Welcome addresses
- *Ann Demeulemeester, Vice-Chair of NVAO*
 - *Lucien Bollaert*
 - *Rafael van Grieken, Chair of ECA*
- 11.15 – 11.40 Employability and quality assurance: the view of the European Commission
Margaret Waters, Deputy Head of Unit – Higher Education and Erasmus, European Commission
- 11.40 – 12.25 Presentation of CHEPS study “Employability of professional bachelors from an international perspective”
- *Don Westerheijden and Renze Kolster, CHEPS, University of Twente*
- 12.25 – 12.30 Introduction to the themes of the afternoon parallel sessions
- *Lucien Bollaert*
- 12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 14.30 Themes (parallel sessions)
- Professional competences
 - Involvement of professional field
 - The position of employability in external quality assurance
- 14.30 – 14.50 Break
- 14.50 – 15.45 Panel discussion
- *Business Europe, EURASHE, European Commission, ESU*
 - *Discussion with audience*
 - *Moderated by Rafael van Grieken*
- 15.45 – 16.00 Conclusions and farewell
- *Lucien Bollaert*
 - *Rafael van Grieken*
 - *Ann Demeulemeester*
- 16.00 – 17.00 Reception
- 18.30 h *ECA members meet in the lobby of Park Hotel to go to the restaurant*
- 19.00 – 21.30 *ECA dinner at restaurant ..., The Hague*

Note: NVAO can reserve rooms at the Park Hotel for ECA members. The costs will have to be paid at the hotel upon arrival.



ECA Meetings

Wednesday 10 December

09.00 – 09.30 h	Update on CeQuInt project
09.30 – 10.30	General Meeting
10.30 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 13.00	Working Group meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group 1• Working Group 2• (Working Group 3 will only meet if there are sufficient participants attending)• Working Group 4
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch

Note: if some Working Groups would like to meet in the afternoon as well then this is possible (to be determined by the chairs of the Working Groups)