Overview and Introduction of EQANIE

Hans-Ulrich Heiss
EQANIE
Overview

- **When?** A short history
  - Why? Aims of EQANIE
  - Who? Members of EQANIE
  - How? Structure of EQANIE
  - What? Framework Standards
  - What? The Euro-Inf Label
  - Why? Benefits
Founding of EQANIE
Overview

- When?  A short history
- Why?  Aims of EQANIE
- Who?  Members of EQANIE
- How?  Structure of EQANIE
- What?  Framework Standards
- What?  The Euro-Inf Label
- Why?  Benefits
Purpose

• The enhancement of evaluation and quality assurance of informatics study programmes and education in Europe.

• (Not-for-profit)
Activities

- Development of criteria and procedures for QA in informatics (higher) education.
- Development and maintenance of a system for the award of a European quality-seal for informatics degree programmes
- Provision of information.
- Maintenance of contacts and relations to other European or non-European organisations important for the goals of the Association.
- Promotion of the development of national and regional accreditation bodies.
- Organisation of events, seminars, workshops and conferences in the field of its activities.
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• 12 members, thereof
  - 9 national associations/institutions /professional societies
  - from 6 different countries
  - and 3 European umbrella organisations
• In total represented in more than 30 different countries
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Executive Board
7 members

Board of Appeals

Accreditation Committee
(at least 7 members)

Audit Team
(at least 3 members)

Secretariat
Supports all committees

General Assembly

Expert Pool

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supports

elects, nominates, appoints

proposes

10/21/2010
Euro-Inf Requests e.g.:

- BA/MA Comp. Science, Reykjavík Univ., IS
- BA/MA Comp. Systems, Technical Univ. of Riga, LV
- BA/Comp. Science, Universitat Polytechnica de Catalunya
- BA Informatics, Univ. degli Studi di Milano

Accr. Committee

- R. Ibbett (UK, Chair)
- M. Nagl (D, V-Chair)
- L. Bacon (UK)
- J. Borzovs (LV)
- Chr. Choppy (F)
- Mark Harris (Intel)
- R. Scateni (I)
- T. Wildvank (NL)

Selection

Expert Pool, 60 int. auditors

Request
Two Business Models

1. Direct accreditation
   - EQANIE
   - Accreditation Agency
   - HEI degree programmes

2. Indirect accreditation
   - Authorisation
Direct or Indirect Accreditation?

**Direct Approach**

- Offers direct field specific accreditation in those countries where this is not available
- Accomodates the specific existing traditions and methods of informatics education in Europe via the Euro-Inf Framework
- Feedback from an international audit team (normally one from the institution’s home country)

**Indirect Approach**

- Accomodates the specific tradition and methods of informatics education in one country through the work of the local/national agency
- Get the European Label as an add-on to the national accreditation with little additional cost
Accreditation Decision
(direct accr.)

- 3 times / year
- Decision:
  - accredited
  - /w. conditional
  - not accredited

✓ Award of the Euro-Inf Quality Label
✓ Publication
Euro-Inf Quality Label: Framework Standards

Field-specific:

- Outcome statements
  - allow for:
    - autonomy
    - variation
    - new ideas

Generic:

- 5 areas of assessment
  - Needs, objectives
  - Educational process
  - Resources
  - Assessment
  - Management
Field-Specific Requirements

Four Categories of learning outcomes

- Underlying Conceptual Basis for Informatics
- Analysis, Design and Implementation
- Technological, Methodological and Transferable Skills
- Other Professional Competences

For each category, outcome criteria for First and Second Cycle programmes’ graduates have been established.
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Problem: Diversity of Programs

Scientific Computing

Software Engineering

Communication Systems

Information Systems

Computational Media

Media Informatics

Computer Science

Computer Visualistics

Computer Engineering

Geo-Informatics

Embedded Systems

Computational Neuroscience

Information Engineering

Bio-Informatics
Problem: Diversity of Institutions

University of Technology
University of Applied Sciences
College
University
Politecnico
Institute of Technology
Grand école
University
University College
Polytechnic
Institute of Technology
University of Cooperative Sciences
uses a threshold approach (minimum standard)
is based rather on the judgement of experienced auditors than on checklists
takes into account the variety of educational approaches
High Standards

Successful application for the Euro-Inf Quality Label requires e.g.:

- A clear and coherent concept
- A well functioning quality assurance system
- (Team-)work of all staff, e.g. each lecturer knows how „his/her“ module contributes to the overall objective
- Highly qualified academic teaching personnel
- Sufficient resources
- An educational offer that reflects academic standards and the demands of the labour market
- Translation of all relevant documents into English (in case of direct accreditation)
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Benefits for HEIs

- Additional certificate of qualification
- Means of promotion: programme meets academic and professional standards
- Benchmarked against other European programmes
- Reliable information on quality of FC programme during admission for SC
- Incentives for students to choose programme
Benefits for students

- Assurance that programme meets high international standards
- Easier access to other Euro–Inf Masters
- Additional quality label recognized by employers Europe–wide
- Requirement for becoming chartered engineer
- International recognition of degree as meeting professional standards
Benefits for employers

- Candidate’s knowledge and competences meet international standards
- Reliable information on quality of degree programme without knowing its details
- Not only academic standard checked but also relevance for profession
- Assured competences of graduates
- Complement to Diploma Supplement
Thank you for your attention
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