

ASEM Seminar on Regional Quality Assurance

Bonn, 5. – 6. July 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS

On July 5 – 6 2011, about 60 experts have met in Bonn in order to discuss possibilities to enhance cooperation concerning quality assurance in higher education in ASEM. This seminar was a mandate from the 3. Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education where Ministers “laid emphasis on strengthening interregional cooperation between quality assurance agencies and networks in Asia and Europe in the field of external quality assurance by organising joint meetings, with a view to develop common principles of quality assurance across the ASEM education area.”

During the two-day seminar, participants focussed their discussions on quality assurance tools and mechanisms in Asia and Europe, pointed out the different perspectives and approaches and tried to find ways to enhance mutual understanding.

Several workshops and sessions dealt with external and internal quality assurance instruments, their meaning and implementation in the different regions. One aim of the seminar was to make the audience aware of these tools, to create more transparency, to share good practices and to find ways to create common principles.

The participants:

Considering the results and recommendations worked out during the workshop on quality assurance in the framework of the Europe-Asia Higher Education Platform, Bangkok 2009

Bearing in mind the findings of the ASEM Seminar on Credits and Learning Outcomes, Berlin 2010

Having regard to the outcomes of the ASEM Quality Assurance Seminar, Limassol 2011

Respecting the wish of the ASEM Ministers for Education for convergency of different quality assurance approaches,

Underlining the significance of involving different stakeholders, such as representatives from higher education institutions, quality assurance agencies, the business sector and students in the development of quality assurance in higher education and

Emphasising the need of a National commitment to quality assurance and the necessity of Governments' financial contribution in order to advance interregional cooperation in this field, **have recommended the following:**

In terms of creating more transparency the participants proposed:

- 1 To gather information on different quality assurance systems in ASEM rather than compiling an extensive glossary of quality assurance terms used in both regions. This "ASEM collection of materials on quality assurance systems in Europe and Asia" should include institutions, principles, and procedure data basis at the regional level. This information will be collected by the ASEM Education Secretariat with the support of quality assurance experts in the relevant countries.
- 2 To compile an ASEM Manual for Recognition and Accreditation illustrating agreed good practices for cross border recognition and accreditation; the ASEM Education Secretariat may coordinate the collection of relevant examples.

In terms of enhanced interregional cooperation in quality assurance the participants proposed:

- 3 To explore the possibility to fund more inter-regional curriculum development programmes in line with a cross border quality assurance procedure;
- 4 To stimulate mutual recognition of Quality Assurance Agencies in Asia and Europe and their quality assurance decisions/results within and between Asia and Europe, in order to facilitate the recognition of qualifications;
- 5 To promote the inclusion of regional and/ or international assessors in peer review procedures, e.g. that assessors/ peers from Asia can participate in European site visits, and vice versa
- 6 To observe and widen sub-regional approaches in internal quality assurance procedures; progress in the ASEAN-QA project should be observed and could be presented in a follow-up seminar on quality assurance.

In order to ensure the continuity of the dialogue on quality assurance, France has offered to host a further expert seminar in 2012.

The ASEM Education Secretariat will forward the recommendations to the respective Senior Officials in the Ministries for Education in order to ask for governmental commitment.