

1. Conference programme

Europe, like most other regions of the world, has the legitimate ambition to strengthen its higher education institutions, which are seen as central to the development of the knowledge society. This aspiration has a wide range of implications, particularly for quality assurance. Indeed, there have been a range of initiatives that seek to strengthen accountability in higher education. These include the emergence of quality labels and ranking schemes, as well as a focus on learning outcomes linked to the development of qualifications frameworks.

The 3rd European Quality Assurance Forum will explore European and international trends in quality assurance. It will examine the implications of these developments for quality assurance in European higher education and internationally and ask, specifically, if these developments increase quality levels in higher education.

Following the success of the first two European Quality Assurance fora (at the Technical University of Munich and the University La Sapienza respectively), the third forum, co-organised by ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE and supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission, is hosted by Corvinus University (Budapest, Hungary) on 20 – 22 November 2008.

Conference objectives

The specific objectives of this third forum are:

- To gain an understanding of how higher education institutions and QA agencies are responding to new forms of accountability
- To analyse whether these new forms of accountability have the desired impact on quality levels and to examine their unintended consequences

Participants

The forum provides a platform for discussion and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance.

Specifically, the forum is of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for QA, QA officers in higher education institutions, students, QA agency staff, Bologna Promoters, employers and researchers working on higher education or quality assurance.

Thursday, 20 November

Pre-conference meetings

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|---------------|--|
| 13.00 – 15.30 | Forum Steering Committee meeting
<i>Restaurant Muzeum- http://www.muzeumkavehaz.hu/en/</i> |
| 16.15 – 16.45 | Meeting with key players: Session chairs, plenary session speakers and rapporteurs.
<i>Ceremonial Room, Historic Building (coffee available)</i> |

Conference

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|---------------|---|
| 14.00 – 17.00 | Registration
<i>Ground floor, New Building</i> |
| 17.00 – 18.30 | Plenary Session I: Setting the Stage
<i>Auditorium, New Building (3d floor)</i> |

Chair: Henrik Toft Jensen, Chair, Forum Steering Committee

- Welcome, Tamás Mészáros, Rector, Corvinus University of Budapest
- Welcome by Károly Molnár, Minister without Portfolio in charge of Science, Research and Innovation, Hungary
- Introduction to the Forum, Henrik Toft Jensen, Chair, Forum Steering Committee
- "International trends in quality assurance", Dorte Kristofferson, Deputy Executive Director, Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications
- Discussion

20.00

Welcome Reception

Main Hall, Historic Building

Friday, 21 November

09.00 – 10.30 Plenary Session II: European Developments in higher education

Auditorium, New Building (3d floor)

Chair: Achim Hopbach, Vice President, ENQA

- "Governance Reform and Change", Christine Musselin, Director, Sociologie des organisations, Sciences Po and CNRS, France
- "The future of the Bologna Process", Lesley Wilson, Secretary General, EUA
- Discussion

10.30 – 11.15

Coffee break and Knowledge Café (poster session)

Second floor and third floor, New Building

For the locations and topics of the posters, cf. section 2 below

11.15 – 13.00 Working Group Session I: Workshops and papers

New Building

During this session, there will be two types of contributions to choose from:

- *Workshops, 90-minute duration*
- *Papers that will be presented during two sessions of 45 min each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move to another room.*

Participants are free to choose either one workshop or two paper presentations during this session. The list of workshops and papers can be found in section 3 below.

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

Main Hall, Historic Building

14.30 – 15.30 Working Group Session II: Discussion Groups

New Building

Participants will be assigned to discussion groups.

17.00 **Bus transportation from hotels and from the New Building to the Hungarian Parliament**

It is essential that you take the bus from your hotel or from the New Building in order to speed up the security process.

17.30 **Arrival at the Hungarian Parliament**

Security procedures

A passport or identification card will be required to enter the building. Please do not forget to bring it with you.

18.15 – 19.15 **Plenary Session III: Different forms of accountability**

Hungarian Parliament, Assembly room

Chair: Lucien Bollaert, Forum Steering Committee

- Welcome, Zoltán Szabó, President, Committee on Education and Science of the National Assembly of the Hungarian Republic
- "Democratising quality", Lee Harvey, Editor, Forum Steering Committee, United Kingdom
- Respondent: Christoph Anz, BusinessEurope
- Respondent: Bergthora Snaebjornsdóttir, ESU

19.15 – 20.30 **Optional guided tour of the Hungarian Parliament**

20.30 **Conference dinner**

Hungarian Parliament, Gobelin Hall and Hunter Hall

<http://www.budapest-tourist-guide.com/budapest-parliament.html>

Bus transportation will be organised from the Parliament to the hotels after the dinner.

Saturday, 22 November

09.00 – 09.30 **Plenary Session IV: The European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)**

Auditorium, New Building

Chair: Lesley Wilson, President, EQAR Board

- Bryan MacMahon, chair of the EQAR Register Committee

09.30 – 10.45 **Plenary Session V: The impact of rankings on quality**

Auditorium, New Building

The two contributors will discuss the value and impact of rankings on quality levels

Chair: Bruno Carapinha, Forum Steering Committee

- "The Emperor has No Clothes? Rankings and the Shift from Quality Assurance to the Pursuit of World-Class Excellence", Ellen Hazelkorn, Director of Research and Enterprise, and Dean of the Graduate Research School, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland
- Respondent: Oliver Vettori, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Austria

10.45 – 11.15 **Coffee break**

Second floor and third floor, New Building

11.15 – 12.00

Working Session III: Papers

New Building

Participants are free to choose one paper presentation during this WGS. The list of papers can be found in section 4 (below).

12.00 – 13.30

Plenary Session VI: Closing session

Auditorium, New Building

Chair: Henrik Toft Jensen, Chair, Forum Steering Committee

- A panel discussion with the E4 presidency:
 - Bruno Curvale, ENQA President
 - Ligia Deca, ESU Chairperson
 - Andreas Orphanides, EURASHE Vice President
 - Jean-Marc Rapp, EUA President-elect, EUA Vice President
- Reflections on the Forum, Mantz Yorke, United Kingdom
- Wrap-up and thanks

13.30 – 15.00

Lunch and departure of participants

Main Hall, Historic Building