

With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union

ENQA workshop “Quality Assurance and Learning Outcomes”

9-10 September 2010

Hosted by the Austrian FH Council (FHR – Fachhochschulrat)

Venue:

Hotel Hilton Vienna Danube
Handelskai 269
1020 Vienna, Austria

Objectives / Questions

- ▶ What are the opportunities and the challenges of learning outcome orientation in the higher education sector?
- ▶ What do the various stakeholders expect from quality assurance agencies in connection with learning outcome orientation?
- ▶ In which way can or should learning outcomes be considered within the scope of external quality assurance? What role should “learning outcomes” play in external quality assurance?

Draft Programme

Thursday 9 September

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| 13.00 | Registration |
| 13.15 | Background/motives, opportunities and challenges of the shift towards “learning outcomes” and the possible impact on quality assurance agencies |
| 13.45 | The Students’ Perspective: Pros and cons of “learning outcomes”. Expectations towards quality assurance agencies. |
| 14.15 | Perspective of the higher education institutions: Challenges of “learning outcome orientation” for quality assurance of higher education institutions. Interaction between internal and external quality assurance. |
| 14.45 | Coffee break |
| 15.00 | Perspective of the business world/employers: What is expected from the higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies? |
| 15.30 | Perspective of ENIC/NARICs: Learning outcome orientation, |

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mobility and questions of recognition

16.00 **Moderated panel discussion:** Is there a conflict of interest between labour market orientation and higher education values when using a learning outcome approach?

18.00 End of the first day

Dinner

Friday 10 September

09.00 **Three examples of considering "learning outcomes" in external quality assurance**

A. ANECA (National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain)

B. NVAO (Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders)

C. HSV (Swedish National Agency for Higher Education)

Comparable presentation based on specific questions:

- precise definition of "learning outcomes"
- methods used to assess the achievement of the intended learning outcomes,
- specific quality standards considering learning outcomes
- usage of domain specific quality/professional oriented standards?
- consideration of NQF / FHEQ-EHEA?, etc.

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 **An example of common principles in the consideration of "learning outcomes"? – ECA principles on learning outcomes**

12.00 Lunch break

13.30 **Parallel working groups – How are learning outcomes to be considered in external quality assurance processes?**

Working group A. – How can it be determined whether the intended learning outcomes meet subject-specific and academic and/or professional requirements (expertise of the review team, international comparisons (benchmarks), technical qualification frameworks, etc.)?

Working group B. – How can it be determined whether the

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intended learning outcomes are met (assessment of final papers, interviews of graduates, checking the consistency of learning outcomes – contents – methods of teaching and learning – examination methods, etc.)?

Working group C. – Which requirements should the formulation of learning outcomes meet?

15.00 Break

15.15 **Presentation and discussion of the results of the working groups – further steps**

16:00 End of the workshop