EQANIE Accreditation

Process and Requirements

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Talk Outline

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The Euro-Inf Framework

- The Euro-Inf Framework is a set of Standards and Accreditation Criteria for Bachelors and Masters degree programmes in informatics
- The Framework is intended to
  - provide information on study programmes across Europe
  - facilitate mutual transnational recognition of qualifications
  - enhance quality and transparency of educational programmes in informatics and encourage the spread of good practice
  - increase the mobility of students
- The Standards and Criteria represent a quality threshold - all graduates of a Euro-Inf accredited degree are expected to have undertaken a defined set of learning activities and to have achieved a defined set of learning outcomes.

The Accreditation Procedure

1. Making an application

- ▶ The Institution submits an application to the EQANIE Secretariat containing relevant preliminary information

- ▶ The Secretariat and Accreditation Committee evaluate the application to determine the number of auditors required

- ▶ The Secretariat compiles a proposal for the visit (time frame, costs) and requests written acceptance from the Institution

- ▶ The Institution formalises the application by accepting the proposal

The Accreditation Procedure

2. The assessment process

- ▶ The Institution compiles a self-assessment report (in English) in accordance with the Euro-Inf guidelines

- ▶ The EQANIE Secretariat and Accreditation Committee select an audit team, with one member as convenor

- ▶ The audit team studies the report and visits the Institution to conduct an audit of the applicant department ($1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 days)

- ▶ The audit team prepares its draft report which EQANIE forwards to the Institution to be checked for factual accuracy

- ▶ The Institution returns the (corrected) report to EQANIE

The Audit Team

- The audit team for a single accreditation usually comprises
  - 2 - 3 professors (academic faculty members)
  - 1 industry representative
- Academic auditors are expected to have
  - proven specialist expertise
  - proven activity in one of the disciplines of informatics
  - (desirably) accreditation or evaluation experience, international experience, experience of HE administration
- Industry auditors are expected to have
  - proven specialist expertise
  - experience of employing graduates of informatics degrees
  - (desirably) accreditation or evaluation experience, international experience, experience of HE administration
- Audit team members must have no conflicts of interest with the Institution being audited

Visit Schedule (typical 1.5 day visit)

17.00	Preliminary meeting of the audit team
08.30	Opening meeting with programme coordinators and institution administrators
09.15	Break, internal discussion
09.30	Meeting with programme coordinators
11.00	Break, internal discussion
11.15	Meeting with students
12.15	Lunch, internal discussion
13.00	Perusal of exam papers, project work, final theses
13.45	Meeting with degree programme teaching staff
14.45	Tour of teaching facilities
15.45	Final internal discussions
16.30	Closing meeting with programme coordinators
17.00	Close

The Self-assessment Report

The self-assessment report should include:

- Formal Data: degree name, period of study, etc
- Educational objectives and demand for the graduates
- Educational process: entry requirements, course of study
- Resources: staff, equipment, etc
- Attainment of objectives: evaluations of success
- Quality assurance measures
- Mapping of degree programme learning outcomes to Euro-Inf expected learning outcomes

Assessment Criteria

Each degree programme is assessed in terms of (*inter alia*):

1. **Inputs:** are the resources invested by the Institution to implement the degree programme (academic and support staff, teaching and learning facilities, *etc.*) adequate?

2. **Outcome assessment / quality control:** are there effective feedback mechanisms within the Institution's internal quality assurance process and do they contribution to the ongoing improvement of the degree programme?

3. **Prior qualifications:** are the students accepted on to the programme adequately prepared?

4. **Learning outcomes:** to what extent do the learning outcomes of the degree match the Euro-Inf Learning Outcomes?

Euro-Inf Learning Outcomes

▶ Euro-Inf expected Learning Outcomes fall into 4 categories:

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

▶ Programme outcomes will vary in extent and intensity between First and Second Cycle degrees

▶ Institutions are expected to show how the learning outcomes of their degree(s) fulfil Euro-Inf requirements by completing a Euro-Inf mapping matrix

Part of the Euro-Inf LO mapping matrix

2	Analysis, Design and Implementation		
	Euro-Inf Learning Outcomes	**Module** contributing to the achievement of the LO	
	Graduates having completed a First Cycle degree should have demonstrated the following capabilities:	Module Title 1	Module Title 2
2.4	formalisation and specification of real-world problems whose solution involves the use of informatics		
2.5	understanding the complexity of informatics problems and the feasibility of their solution		

Example mapping to Euro-Inf LOs

2	Analysis, Design and Implementation		
	Euro-Inf Learning Outcomes	**Module** contributing to the achievement of the LO	
	Graduates having completed a First Cycle degree should have demonstrated the following capabilities:	Module Title 1	Module Title 2
2.4	formalisation and specification of real-world problems whose solution involves the use of informatics	Requirement Analysis	System Analysis
2.5	understanding the complexity of informatics problems and the feasibility of their solution	Module „Algorithms and Data Structures"	Computational Theory

The Accreditation Procedure

3. The decision process

- ▶ The auditors submit their final assessment and recommended decision to the Accreditation Committee
- ▶ The Accreditation Committee makes its decision regarding the accreditation
- ▶ The Institution is informed of the decision
- ▶ The final version of the accreditation report is sent to the Institution
  - ▶ (*A list of accredited degrees is maintained on the Internet*)

The Accreditation Procedure

4. Possible Outcomes

- **Unconditional accreditation**
  - for the full accreditation period
- **Conditional accreditation**
  - if specific conditions are met by a set deadline (normally 3 months) full accreditation will be granted
- **The procedure is suspended**
  - major requirements are not being fulfilled but are likely to be within 6 - 18 months
- **Unconditional refusal**

Euro-Inf Documents

Documents relating to the Euro-Inf Quality Label:

- Euro-Inf Framework Standards and Accreditation Criteria
- EQANIE Procedural Principles for the Accreditation of Degree Programmes
- Model Euro-Inf Learning Outcomes Matrix
- Form for requesting the Euro-Inf Quality Label

can be found on the EQANIE website at

- **http://www.eqanie.eu/pages/quality-label.php**