

**The European Union's IPA Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina**

# **Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance**

*Activity 1.4: Study Visit to Vienna (Report)*



This project is funded by  
the European Union



A project implemented by the Agency for European  
Integration and Economic Development (AEI)

## **Twinning Project**

### *Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance (BA11-IB-OT-02)*

The project is a partnership between Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Austria and funded by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2011) with 1 million Euro.

The total duration of the project is 24 months, starting from 13 September 2013 and lasting until 12 September 2015. The objective of the project is to increase mobility and employability of the labour force through improvement of the quality of higher education institutions in line with the Bologna Process. The project purpose is to improve and strengthen human resources and institutional capacities for quality assurance in higher education. The main partner for the project implementation is the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA), while other partners are the BiH Ministry for Civil Affairs, competent entity and cantonal ministries of education, Education Department in the Government of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Agency for Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions of the Republika Srpska (HEAARS) and higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On behalf of Austria, the project is implemented by the Agency for European Integration and Economic Development (AEI). The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Austria (AQ Austria), in cooperation with relevant experts, provides the appropriate expertise during the project implementation.

### **Project staff**

Alexander Kohler, Twinning Project Leader, Member State Austria

Husein Nanić, Twinning Project Leader, Beneficiary Country Bosnia and Herzegovina

Maria E. Weber, Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA), Member State Austria

Maja Macan, RTA Counterpart, Beneficiary Country Bosnia and Herzegovina

### **Component 1**

Analysis of the legal provisions / Activity 1.4: Study Visit to Vienna (Report)

### **International higher education expert working on the study visit report**

Maria E. Weber, RTA, Member State Austria

### **Proofreading**

Suzana Trubajić, Language Assistant to RTA

<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Study visit to Austria - main outlines concerning external quality assurance in Austria .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 The process of reorganization of quality assurance in Austria .....	5
2.2 External quality assurance procedures in Austria .....	6
2.3 Assessment areas for different quality assurance procedures .....	8
2.4 Organizational structure of AQ Austria .....	10
2.5 External evaluation of AQ Austria .....	11
<b>3 Final conclusions from the study visit .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4 Questions raised by participants, relevant for AQ Austria session and BMWF session .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5 Questions raised by participants, relevant for sessions with conferences for public and private universities and universities for applied sciences .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6 Member state presentations and participants .....</b>	<b>15</b>

# 1 Introduction

During the Twinning Project *Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance* fourteen (14) officials<sup>1</sup> from BiH had, within the first out of the four components, namely *Analysis of Legal Provisions*, an opportunity to participate in a study visit to Austria.<sup>2</sup>

Almost all participants took part in the interviews held during Activity 1.1 *Analysis of the Legal Provisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina*.<sup>3</sup> The participants from the Beneficiary Country (BC participants) visited the Federal Ministry for Science and Research (Federal Ministry), AQ Austria, Conference for Public Universities (uniko), Conference for Private Universities (oepuk), and Conference for Universities of Applied Sciences (FHK).<sup>4</sup>

The study visit was based on the assumption that the experience of the recent reform in external quality assurance in Austria will feed into further discussion and in-depth analysis of the current status quo in the field of external quality assurance in higher education. For this purpose, officials from BiH, namely from the competent educational authorities and HEA, had the opportunity to take part in a study visit to Austrian institutions.

Prior to the study visit the participants were supposed to send questions with regard to the operation and functioning of external quality assurance in higher education, the legal framework for external quality assurance and higher education in Austria in general. After submission, the questions have been clustered according to the scheduled working sessions in order to address the relevant Austrian experts and representatives with the right set of questions. All Austrian experts and representatives were asked to structure their presentations in line with the favoured issues of discussions identified by the BC participants. The Austrian participants received an initial briefing through the MS PL and the MS RTA prior to the study visit. The presentations held by the Austrian experts were interpreted during working sessions and were provided after the study visit to the BC participants in English and in the local language.

All BC participants were invited to participate during all working sessions in open discussions and they were encouraged to monitor themselves whether their previously submitted questions and fields of interests were covered during the presentations and discussions. All working sessions were concluded with a joint wrap-up, focusing on the core findings of the individual working sessions and working day.

<sup>1</sup> Staff and management of the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance in BiH, representatives from HE Ministries and Ministers.

<sup>2</sup> The general outlook of the Twinning Project *Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance* is based upon four components. Scheduled activities within the four components partly run parallel and are interconnected. The first component, namely *Analysis of Legal Provisions*, consists of an analysis of the legal provisions in BiH (Activity 1.1), an analysis of the selected legal frameworks, regulations and procedures for external quality assurance against ESG Part II and Part III (Activity 1.2), an activity (Activity 1.3) focusing on the recommendations out of the legal analysis to relevant stakeholders in higher education and quality assurance in BiH and a study visit to Vienna (Activity 1.4).

<sup>3</sup> Kovačević, Adi/Baumann, Bastian/Nitsche, Veronika: Activity 1.1: Analysis of Legal Provisions – Synthesis of Legal Provisions and Compilation of Existing Reviews (Report). (Experts Report).

<sup>4</sup> See Agenda of the Study Visit.

## 2 Study visit to Austria - main outlines concerning external quality assurance in Austria

During the various working sessions the BC participants were introduced with the main outlines of external quality assurance in higher education in Austria. The main focus was laid on the following:

- recent reform with regard to external quality assurance in Austria,
- role and competencies of AQ Austria and Federal Ministry with regard to external quality assurance,
- organizational structure of AQ Austria ,
- different approaches towards external quality assurance,
- assessment areas for institutional/study programme accreditation and audit.

### 2.1 The process of reorganization of quality assurance in Austria

The reorganization aimed at overcoming the previously fragmented nature of external quality assurance in Austria, i.e. at placing these segments within the same framework. One framework law on external quality assurance has been developed and one agency at the state level – AQ Austria – has been established. AQ Austria is the synthesis of three previous institutions, namely:

- AQA – Agency for Quality Assurance (public universities)
- FHR – Fachhochschul Council (universities of applied sciences)
- OAR – Austrian Accreditation Council (private universities).

Prior to that an intensive public consultation process – including all relevant stakeholders – took place. The core aims of the reorganization process were the following:

- ending the fragmentation of external QA in Austria (legal framework, procedures, bodies),
- developing a (more) coherent national external QA system,
- establishing one single agency covering different HE sectors (public and private universities, universities of applied sciences).

*The Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG 2012)* came into force in March 2012.

The HS-QSG 2012 regulates the different approaches to external quality assurance in Austria and also regulates the scope of work and duties of AQ Austria and its bodies. External quality assurance is mandatory for all types of higher education institutions mentioned in the HS-QSG 2012 and they are obliged to conduct these activities on a regular basis (with regard to the differences as stated in the HS-QSG 2012).

The legal provisions for external quality assurance in brief are the following:

- Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSRG 2012);
- Universities Act (Universitätsgesetz, UG 2002): public universities are required to establish an effective quality management system. As a result of the HS-QSG (§ 22

- HS-QSG) as amended, audits have become an established feature of external quality assurance in Austria;
- University of Applied Sciences Act (FHSTG): the legal basis for the accreditation of FH study programs and accreditation of new institutions in the FH sector is set forth in the FHSTG Section 8. Section 2 Para. 3 of the FHStG as amended it requires the course-providing body of a university of applied sciences (FH) to establish a quality management system (external quality assurance > audits) (§§ 22, 23 HS-QSG);
  - Private Universities Act (PUG): specifies the prerequisites for accreditation, the legal status of private universities and their teaching staff and students, while the HS-QSG (§ 24 HS-QSG) contains specific provisions governing the accreditation of private universities and related matters.

According to the HS-QSG 2012, the definitions of external quality assurance in Austria are the following:

- **What is the objective of external quality assurance?** Concepts and measures to review and enhance the performance of HEI.
- **What is the scope of external quality assurance?** Periodic review of quality in teaching, research and administration.
- **What are external quality assurance procedures?** Formal processes, carried out by independent and external assessors that establish the conformity of educational institutions and degree programmes or the educational institution's quality management system with pre-defined criteria and standards.

The legal framework, but also the various regulations and guidelines for external quality assurance defined by AQ Austria, ensure the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

## 2.2 External quality assurance procedures in Austria

The BC participants were introduced with different procedures regarding external quality assurance in Austria:

- accreditation – considered as the formal federal recognition of an educational institution (institutional accreditation) or a degree programme (programme accreditation) based on pre-defined criteria and standards;
- audit/certification - considered as the formal certificate documenting the conformity of an educational institution's quality management system with pre-defined criteria and standards.

It was highlighted that the procedures of external quality assurance in Austria took into account *specifics of different higher education institutions*, which are covered by the HS-QSG 2012:<sup>5</sup>

- public universities,
- private universities,
- universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen).

<sup>5</sup> HS-QSG 2012 does not include teacher training colleges in Austria.

The BC participants were informed about the fact, that public universities have to undergo institutional audit procedures, but private universities are obliged to undergo institutional and study programme accreditation procedures (and reaccreditation procedures). The participants learnt that already established Fachhochschulen have to undergo accreditation procedures for new study programmes, but they are not obliged to undergo re-accreditation procedures. Like public universities, established Fachhochschulen are obliged to undergo institutional audit procedures. Opposite to established Fachhochschulen, newly founded Fachhochschulen have – similar to private universities - to undergo institutional and study programme accreditation and re-accreditation procedures. Only after a period of twelve (12) years they are equal to already long-time established Fachhochschulen.

	<b>Public Universities (§ 22 HS-QSG)</b>	<b>Universities of Applied Sciences (§§ 22, 23 HS-QSG)</b>	<b>Private Universities (§ 24 HS-QSG)</b>
<b>Accreditation of Study Programmes</b>	- - -	Unlimited, for the duration of institutional accreditation; no conditions possible	Unlimited, for the duration of institutional accreditation; no conditions possible
<b>Accreditation of Institutions</b>	- - -	6 years; No conditions possible	6 years; no conditions possible
<b>Re-Accreditation of Institutions</b>	- - -	Unlimited, for the duration of certification through audit; conditions possible	6 years, then 12 years; conditions possible
<b>Certification of Internal Quality Management (Audit)</b>	7 years; conditions possible	7 years, after an uninterrupted accreditation period of twelve years; conditions possible	- - -

During various working sessions the participants were also introduced with the differences between internal and external quality assurance. It was underlined that internal quality assurance of higher education institutions is a *matter of autonomy*.

With regard to the notion of accreditation it was explained that accreditation is the formal recognition defined by the prescribed procedures of institutions and/or study programs. It was mentioned by the participants that the process of accreditation might be seen as the equivalent to licensing in the system in BiH. It was emphasized that accreditation is directed towards achieving *accountability*, while audit/certification is directed towards achieving *quality improvement/enhancement*.

The participants were informed that all procedures are conducted by independent expert panels. The panels are obliged to follow the prescribed standards and criteria put into force by AQ Austria. All regulations and guidelines are published on the AQ Austria website. Prior to various site visits, all expert panels receive a training organized and conducted by AQ Austria. It was illustrated that AQ Austria staff (project coordinator) are e.g. responsible for the training of expert panels; that project managers took part in the site visits and have an overall function in the coordination and monitoring of external quality assurance processes.

The results of accreditation and audit procedures (panel reports including final decisions by the AQ Austria Board) have to be published on the websites of both higher education institutions and AQ Austria. With regard to this, the reports have to be written in a manner that a broad and diverse audience might be reached.

## 2.3 Assessment areas for different quality assurance procedures

During the working sessions, the participants were introduced with the different assessment areas as defined in the HS-QSG 2012. The various assessment areas are the following:

Institutional accreditation (private universities / universities of applied sciences)

- **Areas of assessment for institutional accreditation** (according to HS-QSG, to be specified by AQ Austria)
  - objectives and profile
  - development planning
  - degree programs and teaching
  - (applied) research and development
  - organization of the higher education institution and its activities
  - funding and resources
  - national and international cooperation
  - quality management system

Study programme accreditation (private universities / universities of applied sciences):

- **Areas of assessment for programme accreditation** (according to HS-QSG, to be specified by AQ Austria)
  - degree program and its management
  - staff
  - quality assurance
  - funding and infrastructure
  - applied research and development
  - national and international cooperation



Audit (public universities / universities of applied sciences - after an uninterrupted accreditation period of twelve (12) years)

- Review of the institutional quality management system, its organisation and performance in the core areas of the HEI
- **Areas of assessment** (according to HS-QSG, to be specified by AQ Austria)
- quality strategy and its integration into the management of the HEI
- quality assurance structures and procedures in the areas of degree programmes and teaching, (applied) research or advancement of the arts, organisation and administration and staff
- integration of internationalisation and societal objectives into the QM system
- information systems and involvement of stakeholder groups
- quality assurance structures and procedures for certificate programmes for further education offered by providers of university of applied sciences
  - HEI have a free choice of the agency (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) or internationally recognized quality assurance agency)<sup>6</sup>
  - the same higher education institution cannot perform both audit and consultancy procedures.

The participants were especially interested whether external quality assurance, esp. accreditation, is obligatory for study programmes of all three cycles (Ba/Ma/PhD) or only for the first and second cycles. It was explained that in those sectors that are obliged to undergo accreditation and that are obliged by their specific law to offer PhD programs, too (e.g. private universities), PhD programmes are also subject to accreditation.

It was further explained that with regard to *accreditation procedures* – for those higher education institutions that are obliged to undergo accreditation – *AQ Austria* is the responsible body. When it comes to *audit/certificates*, higher education institutions, namely public universities and long-time established Fachhochschulen, *are free to select any internationally recognized and/or EQAR-listed agency as mentioned above.*

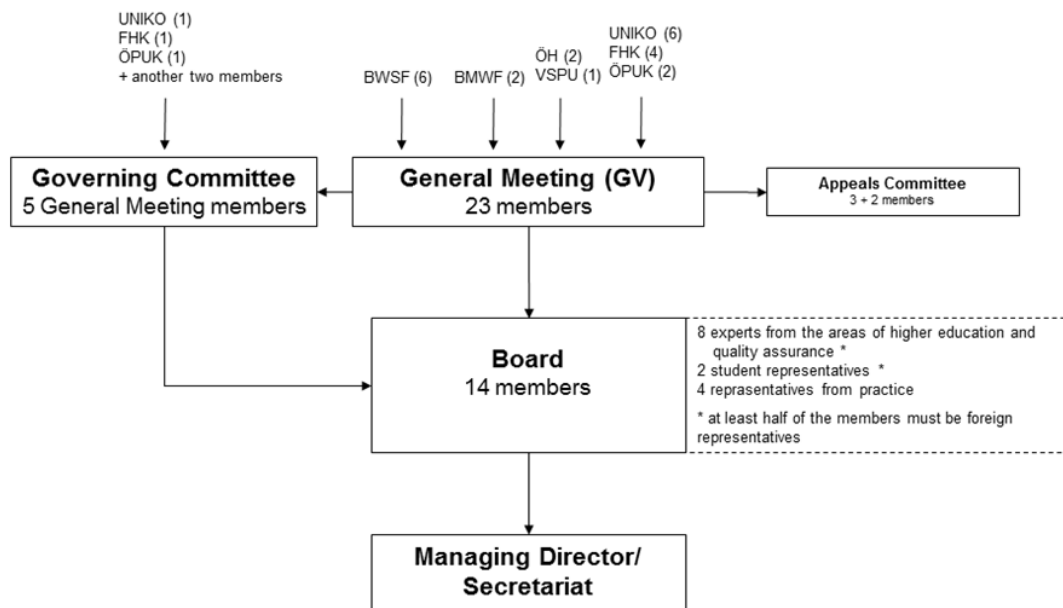
With regard to the *costs of external quality assurance procedures*, it was explained that higher education institutions have to cover the costs themselves. It was explained that AQ Austria is entitled to charge an individually set fee for the quality assurance procedures that it carries out. The participants were informed that the fee included the actual costs of the assessment, as well as the flat administrative fee for AQ Austria. According to the HS-QSG 2012, AQ Austria has to set the amount of the flat administrative fee for quality assurance procedures at higher education institutions and that the agency has to publish it. The concrete amount is subject to approval by the competent Federal Minister.

<sup>6</sup> EQAR: [www.eqar.eu](http://www.eqar.eu).

## 2.4 Organizational structure of AQ Austria

During the study visit, the participants were familiarized with the organizational structure of AQ Austria and the way AQ Austria is financed. The participants learnt that the bodies of AQ Austria are the following:

- Governing Committee, Board, Appeals Committee, and General Meeting



BWSF – Advisory Council for Economic and Social Affairs (6 persons)  
 BMWF – Federal Ministry for Science and Research (2 persons)  
 ÖH – Austrian National Union of Students (2 persons)  
 VSPU – Association for the Establishment and Promotion of a National Students' Representation of Private Universities (1 person)

UNIKO – Universities Austria (6 persons)  
 FHK – Association of Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences (4 persons)  
 ÖPUK – Austrian Private Universities' Conference (2 persons)

With regard to the organizational structure, it was highlighted that the *AQ Austria* Board is a *decision making body*. Decisions on external quality assurance are made by the Board and the accreditation decision has to be submitted to the Federal Ministry. The decision of the Board is subject to approval by the competent Federal Minister prior to the issuing of the official notification. It was mentioned that approval shall not be given if the decision violates any provision under the HS-QSG 2012 or is in conflict with *national higher-education objectives*. In case of audits, the decision of the Board on issuing a certificate does not have to be submitted to the Federal Ministry.

Beside of this brief outline on the different external quality assurance procedures, a special attention was paid to the role of AQ Austria in general, its responsibilities as a quality assurance and accreditation agency with regard to supervision and monitoring of higher education institutions in Austria. It was highlighted that AQ Austria has a *supervision function only over those institutions and study programmes which are obliged to undergo accreditation procedures*, namely private universities and Fachhochschulen, but not public universities.

AQ Austria is financed through federal funds which are provided annually by the relevant Federal Ministry. In addition to that, AQ Austria has to generate its own income by fulfilling its tasks (e.g. external quality assurance procedures, consultancy, etc.). Regarding the accountability of AQ Austria, it was explained that AQ Austria is obliged to report to the National Council by way of the competent Federal Minister.

Role and competencies of AQ Austria in brief:

- development and implementation of external quality assurance procedures
- audit and accreditation procedures, according to national and international standards
- supervision of **accredited** HEIs and **accredited** degree programmes
- studies and system analyses, evaluations
- information, advice and consultancy
- international cooperation.

Role and competencies of the AQ Austria Board in brief:

- decision on accreditation and certification/audit
- decision on standards, guidelines and procedures
- transmission of decisions to the relevant Federal Ministry
- decision on reports (submitted to the National Parliament)
- publication of accreditation and audit results
- supervision of accredited HEIs and their study programmes
- supervision of the Agency.

With regard to its decisions, the Board is not subject to directives.

During this workshop, the participants were also discussing the *relationship of AQ Austria with its various stakeholders* (higher education institutions, Federal Ministry). The relationship might be described briefly with the following:

- stakeholders are represented in the General Meeting and the Governing Committee,
- nomination of Board members (General Meeting, Ministry); approval of Board members (Ministry),
- opinion on regulations, standards and procedures (to be decided independently by the Board) (Governing Committee),
- provision of funding (Ministry),
- approval of accreditation decisions (Ministry),
- follow-up of audit decisions for public universities (within triennial performance agreements) (Ministry),
- conferences, seminars.

## 2.5 External evaluation of AQ Austria

Like other agencies, AQ Austria, too, has to undergo an external evaluation, aiming at checking the compliance with the ESG requirements and at acquiring full membership within the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)<sup>7</sup> and be listed

<sup>7</sup> ENQA: [www.enqa.eu](http://www.enqa.eu). In order to become a full member, agencies have to undergo an external review against the fulfillment of ENQA membership criteria. According to the EQAR, quality assurance agencies, whether based in Europe or outside, that have demonstrated their substantial compliance with the ESG through an external review by independent experts can apply for inclusion on the Register.

within the EQAR. All three predecessor agencies in Austria have been full members of the ENQA. AQ Austria will undergo an external evaluation in the upcoming months. As already mentioned above, the legal framework, but also the various regulations and guidelines for external quality assurance defined by AQ Austria, ensure the ESG.

### 3 Final conclusions from the study visit

- The participants learned about the core ideas behind the setting up of the new outlines of external quality assurance in Austria.
  - Merger of three previous bodies responsible for external quality assurance into one body, namely AQ Austria:
    - AQA (public universities)
    - Fachhochschul Council (FHR, Fachhochschulen)
    - Accreditation Council (OAR, private universities)
  - Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG 2012). The aim of this law is to create a cohesive frame of reference contributing to the strengthening of mutual trust and mutual recognition between the three higher education sectors. With the further development of the framework of external quality assurance, an improvement in the permeability between the three higher education sectors should also occur. Beside the framework law on quality assurance, there are also three existing laws relevant for higher education institutions in Austria:
    - Universities Act 2002 (UG 2002)
    - Private Universities Act (PUG)
    - Universities of Applied Sciences Act (FHStG).

(All laws can be found on: <http://www.bmwf.gv.at/home/bmwf/legislation/>)

- The participants learned that the HS-QSG 2012 not only defines the procedures of external quality assurance but also the organizational structure of AQ Austria and its decision making body –the Board, and the role and responsibilities of the other bodies (Governing Committee, Appeals Committee and General Meeting) but also the relationship to the Federal Ministry.
- The participants learned that the Austrian approach to external quality assurance does not follow a “one size fits it all” approach but respects the differences within the higher education sector (i.e. responsibility for supervision, monitoring, governance, financing etc.):
  - institutional and study programme accreditation for public universities (incl. re-accreditation)
  - institutional and study programme accreditation for new universities of applied sciences (incl. re-accreditation)
  - study programme accreditation and institutional audit for established universities of applied sciences
  - institutional audit for public universities.
- The participants learned that AQ Austria supervises accredited study programmes and accredited institutions (private universities and Fachhochschulen).

- The participants learned about the specific notion of accreditation and audit/certification:
  - Accreditation is the formal federal recognition of an educational institution (institutional accreditation) or of a degree programme (programme accreditation) based on pre-defined criteria and standards. After a successful accreditation procedure, the institution gets the permission (license) to offer programmes. An accreditation is more *accountability-oriented*.
  - Certification (after an audit) is the formal certificate of the conformity of an educational institution's quality management system with pre-defined criteria and standards. An audit is mainly *improvement-oriented*.
- During the study visit, the participants became aware of the fact that the ESG are applied in the relevant legal frameworks (HS-QSG 2012) and regulations dealing with external quality assurance (guidelines and regulations issued by AQ Austria) but also in the various procedures – accreditation and audit - within Austria and at the international level. Nevertheless, the participants became aware of the fact that, like in many other European countries, also the Austrian approach has faced numerous challenges and will face them in the future.

## 4 Questions raised by participants, relevant for AQ Austria session and BMWF session

1. The work of the Ministry in general: responsibility for existing legal framework, mechanisms for efficient implementation of legal framework, implementation models, good practice, available human and material resources, difficulties and critical points, development plans.
2. What are the competences of the Ministry for higher education institutions and higher education in general?
3. What are the competencies of the Ministry in accreditation procedures?
4. What are the competencies of AQ Austria for higher education?
5. What are the competencies of AQ Austria in the accreditation procedures (incl. appeals procedures)?
6. What is the role of the AQ Austria Board in the decision making process related to accreditation issues?
7. How is the internal quality system (management) of AQ Austria organized?
8. What are the legal provisions and procedures related to quality assurance including also appeals procedures?
9. What are the regulations regarding accreditation, institutional accreditation process and programme accreditation process, including doctoral studies?
10. Are there any minimum requirements for the work of universities, especially for schools of medicine and healthcare studies?
11. What is binding and same for all higher education institutions in Austria and who issues such regulations (external quality assurance, establishing new HEI etc.)?

12. Who, how and in which time intervals are external quality assurance conducted?
13. The process of accreditation in detail:
  - a. writing of SER
  - b. appointment of experts
  - c. work of expert panels, writing of expert reports
  - d. independence of work of experts
  - e. assessment of the compliance with the criteria
  - f. payment for external reviews, follow-up activities
  - g. monitoring implementation of recommendations and findings
  - h. role of the Ministry and relations between all participants in the accreditation process
  - i. status of non-accredited HEIs, statutory obligations of HEIs in terms of accreditation.
14. Do all higher education institutions have to be accredited?
15. Is accreditation a requirement for carrying out higher education activities, what is the status of institutions that do not obtain external evaluation (procedures)?
16. What are the differences between licensing and accreditation procedures in Austria?
17. What is the role of the Ministry in licensing and accreditation?
18. What is the procedure and what are requirements for the establishment of a new HEI?
19. How are HEI in Austria financed? (Is financing linked to external quality assurance?)
20. Is there a process of monitoring of HEI established? Who is responsible for the monitoring?
21. Are the academic titles connected with higher education cycles (BA/MA/PhD) and are they linked to jobs – employment? (Q. Only if there is room for this topic)

## 5 Questions raised by participants, relevant for sessions with conferences for public and private universities and universities for applied sciences

1. Conferences for public universities (uniko), private universities (oepuk), and universities for applied sciences (FHK): manner of functioning, experiences with good practice in (external) quality assurance, critical points, development models?
2. What is the role of the rectors' conferences in HE and the process of external quality assurance?
3. How is the internal quality management in HEIs organized? (legal requirements, approaches, responsibilities)
4. What are requirements for establishment of new study programmes?
5. Who, how and in which time intervals are external quality assurance conducted?
6. In which way does an internal HEI self-evaluation process contribute to (external) quality assurance?
7. The process of accreditation in detail – relevant aspects for HEI:
  - a. writing of the SER
  - b. appointment of experts
  - c. work of expert panels, writing of expert reports

- d. independence of work of experts
  - e. assessment of the compliance with the criteria
  - f. payment for external reviews, follow-up activities
  - g. monitoring implementation of recommendations and findings
  - h. role of the Ministry and relations between all participants in the accreditation process
  - i. status of non-accredited HEIs, statutory obligations of HEIs in terms of accreditation.
8. What are the experiences with processes of accreditation (external quality assurance) of private and public universities and universities of applied science?
  9. How are HEI in Austria financed? (Is financing linked to external quality assurance?)

## 6 Member state presentations and participants

### **Presentation of workshop with AQ Austria, 14 January 2014**

Participants on behalf of AQ Austria:

- Dr Achim Hopbach, Managing Director, AQ Austria
- Mag. Dietlinde Kastelliz –Head of Department for Audit and Consulting, AQ Austria
- Dr Maria E. Weber – MS RTA, AQ Austria
- Mag. Alexander Kohler, MS PL, BMWF/Quality Assurance Council for Teacher Education

### **Presentation of workshop with Federal Ministry for Science and Research, 15 January 2014**

Participants on behalf of Federal Ministry for Science and Research:

- Dr Hannes Diem, Official Unit I/11, Federal Ministry for Science and Research
- Dr Andreas Neuhold, Official Unit I/11, Federal Ministry for Science and Research
- Mag. Gudrun Haberl-Trampusch, Official Unit I/11, Federal Ministry for Science and Research

### **Presentation of workshop with President of Conference of Private Universities Austria, 15 January 2014**

Participants on behalf of Conference of Private Universities Austria:

- Prof. Karl Wöber, President, Conference of Private Universities

### **Presentation of workshop with Secretary General of Universities Austria, 16 January 2014**

Participants on behalf of Universities Austria:

- Mag. Elisabeth Fiorioli, Secretary General, Universities Austria

### **Presentation of workshop with Secretary General of Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences Austria, 16 January 2014**

Participants on behalf of Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences:

- Mag. Kurt Koleznik, Secretary General, Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences

- Mag. Heidi Esca-Scheuringer, academic staff (legal and quality assurance issues), Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences.