

Linking Academic Recognition and Quality Assurance (LIREQA)

Conference speakers



Tia Loukkola is Director of Institutional Development at European University Association (EUA). In this capacity she is responsible for EUA's activities related to quality assurance and rankings. This includes the management of EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme, the European Quality Assurance Forum and various projects run by the association in relevant fields as well as representing EUA at European level policy discussion. In addition, she is responsible for the development of various other activities with focus on supporting EUA's member universities. Before joining EUA in April 2008 Tia worked at the University of Turku in Finland for ten years in various capacities both in faculty and central administration.



Adam Gajek, currently serving as President of the European Students' Union 2018/19, previously Vice President of ESU in the period 2017/2018 and a member of the Executive Committee of ESU. His main focus lies in the area of quality of higher education, with an emphasis given to quality assurance, learning and teaching, recognition and meaningful students' participation. Member of the Steering Committee of the ESU Quality Assurance Student Experts' Pool and a former QA expert of the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA). Former Member of the Executive Board of EQAR. He has formerly served as an International Officer of the Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland (PSRP) and as an elected representative of the Students' Union of the University of Warsaw.



Cathy Duykaerts, Appointed director of AEQES in 2008, is responsible for designing and implementing external evaluation procedures in Belgian French-speaking higher education. AEQES underwent external reviews in 2011 and 2016 that contributed to the further development of the agency and granted it ENQA membership. Committed to the field of quality assurance (ENQA Board member and Vice-President, member of EURASHE Working Group on Quality, ex-member of the Programme Committee of the European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), co-founder of the French-speaking network of QA agencies). She is, since 2016, the ENQA representative in the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative, where she has been drafting the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) and a review methodology for agency reviews.



Gunnar Vaht has been Head of the Estonian Academic Recognition Information Centre (Estonian ENIC/NARIC) since 1997, and he has more than 20 years of experience in credential evaluation and on recognition issues. He was responsible for establishing the system for academic recognition in Estonia. Internationally, he has been as President of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee since 2013, and served as President of the European Network of Information Centres on Academic Recognition (ENIC) from 2003 to 2005. From 2016 to 2018 he was a member of the Drafting Committee of the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education.



Bas Wegewijs joined Nuffic (the Dutch organisation for internationalisation in education) in 2001. He is responsible for leading a team of credential evaluators and policy officers. He also manages European projects in the field of recognition, which are initiated and coordinated by Nuffic. He has carried out many project and consultancy activities in The Netherlands and abroad. Previously, Bas held post-doctoral positions as a research chemist in Germany and The Netherlands, obtaining first-hand experience with international mobility of students and teachers.



Aurelija Valeikienė works as Deputy Director at the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC), Lithuania from 2004. In this capacity, she oversees activities of recognition of foreign qualifications and implementation of external quality assurance. Served as member of ENQA (European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies) Board. Is ENQA expert for quality agency external reviews. Was elected President of the Network of Central and East European Accreditation in Higher Education Agencies (CEENQA). Has worked as expert locally and internationally upon invitations from the Council of Europe, the World Bank, European Commission, European Training Foundation etc.