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I. EU-Commission: ÖAR as example for Good Practice

The latest report of the EU-Commission on the progress in quality assurance in higher education analyses the situation at national, European and international level and suggests areas for further development.

The practice of the ÖAR to ensure the objectivity of its decisions by appointing foreign experts and by the majority of the Accreditation Council to be non-Austrians is being explicitly referred to.

The report states: "Increasing objectivity: the Austrian Accreditation Council uses almost exclusively foreign evaluators and Austrians are not in a majority in the decision-making Board. This adds to international credibility by preventing suspicions that vested interests may distort accreditation decisions."

Furthermore the report notes the work of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) and the online data base [Qrossroads](#) as examples for Good Practice.

The complete report can be viewed on:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0487:FIN:EN:PDF>

II. Annual report of the ÖAR 2008

The current annual report of the ÖAR is now online available. It summarizes the activities of the ÖAR, gives information on applications for accreditation, lists the programmes of the private universities and gives a statistical overview on student enrolment, on tuition fees and sites of private universities.

The annual report has been accepted by the ÖAR on 11 September 2009 and has been send to the *Nationalrat* via the federal minister of science and research.

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/downloads/2009/AR_Jahresbericht_2008.pdf

III. ENQA General Assembly 2009

This year's general assembly of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) took place on 28/29 September 2009 in Barcelona.

Achim Hopbach (Germany) has been elected new president of ENQA, vice presidents are Tibor Szanto (HU) and Fiona Crozier (GB).

The ENQA Workshop Report 9 „Programme-oriented and institutional-oriented approaches to quality assurance: new developments and mixed approaches“ brings together articles presenting national experiences and approaches to quality assurance in six European countries and offers a range of various examples of quality assurance systems.

The report can be viewed as pdf-file on:

<http://www.enqa.eu/files/ENQA%20workshop%20report%209.pdf>

IV. Tip: The national qualifications framework of Austria

The third volume of the series "Studies in Lifelong Learning" comprises articles dealing with the development of the national qualifications framework (NQF) in Austria. The articles have been written in the course of the first development phase 2007/2008.

The contributions range from international experiences with the implementation of the European qualifications framework and statistical approaches to pilot projects and practical examples. Many of the articles have been directly integrated into the proposal for the Austrian qualifications framework.

The volume is published in a German version only.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-643-50022-9>

