

Foreword

Higher education in Europe is faced with many new challenges with implications for institutions as well as for systems of quality assurance. There is a significant growth in the number of new providers of higher education linked to the development of new ways of delivering higher education. This process is again assisted by the very visible increase in available information and communication technologies.

Other important processes are changes in public focus on the responsibilities and relevance of higher education institutions in relation to political priorities, such as lifelong learning and increasing national and transnational mobility of individuals and learning.

The nature of studies in higher education is also changing. Transnational education and lifelong learning are examples of trends that have moved higher education institutions towards taking an active role in the search of new education applications.

The Steering Group of ENQA decided therefore to initiate a project with the aim to review these various issues mentioned above. This report is the result of the first stage of the project. The report is primarily an identification and typology of the new forms of higher education, and their implications for current approaches to internal and external quality assurance.

On behalf of the Steering Group it is my pleasure to extend our thanks to professor Robin Middlehurst who undertook to make this report in cooperation with an advisory group headed by Peter Williams from the Steering Group.

Christian Thune

Chairman

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