

ENAAE General Policy Statement

approved by the Administrative Council 07/09/2006
and by the General Assembly 17/11/2006¹

ENAAE is the development of ESOEPE (European Standing Observatory for the Engineering Profession and Education) which was established on 9 September 2000 with the purpose of "build[ing] confidence in systems of accreditation of engineering degree programmes within Europe", and facilitating "exchange of information", "voluntary agreements on accreditation of engineering educational programmes and recognition of engineering qualifications" and "the development of standards on the competence requirements of graduate engineers" ²

To pursue these aims, in 2004 ESOEPE was instrumental in submitting to the EC (DG EaC) the EUR-ACE project, that has elaborated a European system of accreditation of engineering programmes at the First and Second Cycle level (including programmes leading directly to a SC degree) in which "national" engineering accreditations agencies continue to award their certificates, to which the common EUR-ACE quality label is added. Framework Standards to be respected by participating agencies have been published³, as well as proposal for the organization and running of the accreditation system⁴.

The EUR-ACE project was concluded on 31 March 2006 with the submission to the EC of the whole set of its Outputs Documents⁵ and their presentation in a public workshop organized together with the DG EaC. On that occasion, EUR-ACE has been listed among the six EC-sponsored "European quality labels in higher education" and invited to a meeting on the same day (31/03/2006).

In the meantime, in order to contribute more effectively to implement the EUR-ACE proposals, ESOEPE had decided to transform itself into a formal International Non-profit Association, denoted ENAAE (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education), as ratified by two ESOEPE General Assemblies (October 2005; March 2006).

ENAAE has already promoted and participated in grant applications to the EC (DG EaC), two of which have been accepted:

¹ This first version of the "ENAAE General Policy Statement" is a short document based on existing and easily available ones. In the medium/long term, ENAAE should transform the relevant EUR-ACE documents, appropriately updated, into its own documents and adopt them explicitly as chapters of its "General Policies" in accord with Art.S25 of the Statutes, avoiding reference to other material. The present Statement can then become the basis of an Introduction.

Giuliano Augusti, ENAAE President

² ESOEPE Agreement, September 2000; <http://www.feani.org> (Accreditation/ESOEPE/EUR-ACE).

³ EUR-ACE Document A1: "EUR-ACE Framework Standards for the accreditation of engineering programmes"; http://www.feani.org/EUR_ACE/reports_accrstand.htm.

⁴ EUR-ACE Document A2: "Organization and Management of the EUR-ACE accreditation system"; http://www.feani.org/EUR_ACE/reports_accrstand.htm.

⁵ EUR-ACE Output Documents; http://www.feani.org/EUR_ACE/reports_accrstand.htm.

a) Under the Socrates Programme, a project (EUR-ACE IMPLEMENTATION), that aims at making the EUR-ACE proposals operational by

- initiating the award of EUR-ACE labels;
- promoting accreditation processes throughout Europe;
- arranging training for international accreditors;
- setting up a minimal administrative structure.

In countries without a national system for accrediting engineering programmes, a new national agency will be encouraged: in the meantime, accreditation certificates and the EUR-ACE label will be awarded by one of the participating agencies; alternatively, the national “general” accreditation agency may be contacted in order to integrate the EUR-ACE criteria into the accreditation of engineering programmes.

In addition, a budgetary policy will be introduced to make the EUR-ACE system self-supporting by the end of the project (i.e. by the end of 2008).

b) Under the Tempus-Tacis Programme, a project (PRO-EAST: Promotion and Implementation of EUR-ACE Standards), the objectives of which are the promotion and implementation of the EUR-ACE Standards in the Russian Federation, i.e. dissemination of the EUR-ACE Standards for accrediting engineering programmes to the broad engineering community of Russian HEIs; approval in Russian HEIs of the EUR-ACE criteria and procedures and awarding the "EUR-ACE label" to accredited programmes. The project intends thus to contribute to the integration of Russian Federation into the EHEA.

ENAE will actively contribute to running the EUR-ACE IMPLEMENTATION and PRO-EAST projects, in full coherence with the objectives indicated in the Final Documents of the EUR-ACE project, to which ENAE is fully committed.

Therefore, in accord with the quoted EUR-ACE objectives, ENAE will try and establish gradually a bottom-up European system for accreditation of engineering education, as wide as possible and consistent with the general indication of the Bologna process, and in particular with the ENQA “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA”⁶ and the “Framework for Qualifications in the EHEA”⁷. In this system, national or regional agencies will accredit the educational programmes, and ENAE, on the advice of an ad-hoc Committee, will authorize them to add the EUR-ACE quality label to the accreditation.

The EUR-ACE label will be distinguished into “EUR-ACE Bachelor” (“European Accredited Engineering Bachelor”) and “EUR-ACE Master” (“European Accredited Engineering Master”) respectively when the programme is accredited at the FC or SC level.

ENAE will monitor and respond to the development of all future degree programmes that may come within its scope.

⁶ European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area; 2005.

⁷ Bologna Working Group on Qualifications Frameworks: A Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area; 2005.