

Andalusia, April 16, 2015

Representatives of 50 International Quality Assurance Agencies meet at Córdoba this week.

The Andalusian Knowledge Agency hosts the 2015 ENQA Members' Forum organised to analyse the Quality Assurance procedures in European Higher Education.

Nearly 80 representatives from 50 Quality Assurance agencies and institutions coming from 31 different countries, mostly european, meet today and tomorrow in an international Forum organised by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency (AAC) in cooperation with the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The AAC, ascribed to the Andalusian Ministry of Economy, Innovation, Science and Employment, hosts this Forum organised to focus on the analysis and review of the procedures present in different european nations to guarantee Quality at Higher Education institutions, as well as on the search of common standards and guidelines.

The meeting will be held in Córdoba, at the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation venue (DEVA), and it will be opened by the Andalusian Government General Secretary of Universities, Research and Technology *ad interim*, Francisco Andrés Triguero Ruiz, accompanied by ENQA President, Padraig Walsh, and by José Manuel Roldán Nogueras, as DEVA representative.

The forum will be attended by nearly 80 representatives from 50 european Quality Assurance agencies and institutions in Higher Education and Research. The ENQA General Assembly will be held in the first session. So far the european association has just recognised membership to 4 spanish evaluation agencies, including the AAC, in charge of the evaluation and accreditation of the Andalusian R+D+I activities, as well as of the evaluation, certification and accreditation of the Andalusian Higher Education institutions and its faculty.

In addition to the AAC, 4 spanish agencies are also members of ENQA:

the Castilla and León Agency for University System Quality (ACSUCYL), the Galicia Agency for University System Quality (ACSUC), the National Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (ANECA), and the Cataluña Agency for University

System Quality (AQU).

Renewal of european acknowledgement

Acceptance of ENQA membership is an international acknowledgement for every agency involved in Higher Education evaluation and accreditation. By the end of last year, the AAC Agency obtained accreditation renewal as full member of ENQA for five more years, and underwent an accurate external review process which certified independence in the development of its activities. Among other advantages, the acceptance as full member of ENQA allow other agencies to develop evaluation reports for any european institution under request.

The evaluating endeavour

The concern about Quality in Higher Education, specially about university environment, led the Andalusian Knowledge Agency intensify efforts in this area. In 2014, the AAC Agency reviewed the quality of 146 requests either for implementation projects or infrastructure enhancement and scientific equipment; 130 registrations of research groups to be included in the Electronic Registry of the Andalusian Knowledge System agents; 346 follow-up reports on excellence research projects, 46 evaluations of the training activity and technology transfer from the staff of the Institute of Research and Agricultural and Fishing Training (IFAPA); 23 requests on international projects and 2 applications for the development of Andalusian University Research Institutes, among others.

Concerning the evaluation and accreditation of University teaching staff at the region, in 2014 the AAC Agency received a total of 740 requests for faculty accreditation from the 10 Andalusian public Universities on the different contractual modalities, from which 425 requested to be evaluated. Likewise, it was accomplished the evaluation of 26 applications for recruitment of *emeritus* faculty.

Finally, last year the AAC evaluated 100 requests for University Degrees verification, 104 for modification of previously verified Degrees (94 Bachelor and 10 Masters) and 7 requests for verification of Doctorate Programmes. Additionally, within the Follow-up Programme, 701 files were assessed (398 Bachelor and 303 Masters), among other requests.