

REPORT TO ECCE COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2019 BY KENNETH VALL (PRESIDENT ECCE)

INTRODUCTION

The ECCE has now applied for full membership of ENQA and the accreditation visit will take place in February 2021 in London. The ECCE Executive is planning the event and has started preparing the documentation needed including a self-study report. There will be a requirement for a number of people to attend the event and these will be informed of the accreditation schedule as soon as possible.

ENQA

In May this year, I attended the Annual General Meeting of ENQA held in Tallinn Estonia. The main topic for discussion was the new ENQA strategic plan and the upcoming review of ENQA activities by an outside body supported by the EU. Two of our members were selected to participate in the review and able to give their opinion on the workings of ENQA as an accrediting agency. One of the issues is still the conflict between institutional accreditation and subject specific accreditation. When in Tallinn, I met with the president of the European Alliance for Subject-Specific and Professional Accreditation and Quality Assurance (EASPA). This might be an organisation that is suitable for us to join and we will attend their Annual Conference in December this year as observers to find more information about its activities. It is important to note that the Association of Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE) have observer status of EASPA and both the medical schools of Southern Denmark and Zurich are members of AMSE.

Another important discussion in Tallinn was around the new European Universities initiative. This initiative is a way of strengthening and deepening university collaborations already existing and as an opportunity to form new partnerships across Europe.

ENQA also run a Leadership programme for training of our future leaders and we are pleased that we have been able to enrol Maria Browning from our Executive to participate in this training

EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Following on from the General Council decisions in November 2018, the Executive have advertised across Europe for two experts in Higher Education and Accreditation. There were a number of very qualified applicants and after a shortlist was drawn up, the General Council have agreed to extend an invitation to two candidates to join Council.

They are Jennifer Taylor from the UK with extensive university experience and is also a member of the Quality Assurance Agency in the UK. The second is Rui Amaral Mendes from Portugal who also has a similar experience of University education and also brings a medical dimension through being a dental surgeon to Council.

We have also appointed new members to fill vacancies on the board. Professor Jennifer Bolton, a previous President of the ECCE and Mark Webster, previously head of department of Chiropractic at the University of South Wales (WIOC).

We thus now have a very strong Board with a variety of expertise suitable for our agency and I look forward to working with them to overcome the challenges ahead.

A new strategic plan is being developed under the leadership of our Vice President and although the focus is on achieving full ENQA membership, there are many other developments in progress that will strengthen and enhance the activities of the ECCE.

Our Treasurer, apart from looking after our finances, is working hard to improve our communication strategy with all stakeholders and particularly as it relates to our relationship with the student bodies of accredited institutions.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

This autumn two institutions are subject to re-accreditation. They are the McTimoney College of Chiropractic (in Abingdon and Manchester) and Institut Franco-Européen de Chiropraxie (in Paris and Toulouse).

We have had no new applications for accreditation but our understanding is that the Bahcesehir University, Istanbul is preparing their self- study report and we are looking forward to their application in due course.

Zurich university has asked us to conduct their next review together with the Swiss AAQ and this process of collaboration is now ongoing.

Representing the ECCE, I am attending the General Chiropractic Council (UK) monitoring visit of Year 2 of London South Bank University.

CONCLUSION

The ECCE continues to strengthen its membership and should now be able to prepare successfully for ENQA membership. We are also looking at engaging with other organisations like the EASPA and increasing collaboration with accrediting agencies like the Swiss AAQ and the GCC in the UK.

We are inviting a number of observers to our General Council to showcase the workings of the ECCE to new and upcoming chiropractic institutions.

In May 2019, I was invited by the Society Promoting Chiropractic Education in the UK to give a presentation on "Innovation and Future of Chiropractic Education".

This society has been very successful in helping to establish a possible three University based Chiropractic programmes in the UK. In my presentation I was able to draw on innovative chiropractic education at a number of our accredited institutions. I was also able to ask the Society and a number of leaders from Chiropractic Associations across Europe present at the meeting to now consider supporting the establishment of collaborative ventures between Chiropractic Institutions in line with the European University Initiative mentioned previously. The ECCE would do all it can to support such a future that could ultimately lead to awarding joint degrees in chiropractic across several institutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Vall', with a period at the end. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kenneth Vall
ECCE President