

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ECCE GENERAL COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

This has been a challenging year for the ECCE with delays to our ENQA membership application due to EQAR requiring another focused review before admitting us onto their register. We were finally accepted as a full member of ENQA and I was able to receive the acknowledgement from the ENQA President at their annual general meeting in October.

We also had to abort our proposed move to Switzerland. If we moved to Switzerland, the Spanish Chiropractic Association would lose their hard-fought government endorsed insurance scheme which required the accrediting agency of chiropractic institutions (ECCE) to be based in an EU country. We are therefore exploring the possibility of moving to Ireland as it is the only EU country with an English language base.

ENQA

As stated above, we are now a full member of ENQA for a period of 5 years and I would like to thank all involved in the process and in particular Cindy Petersen who was both responsible for writing our Self-Study Report and defending it so aptly. There are a number of recommendations in the ENQA report that will have to be responded to in a timely manner. We are already working on some of the recommendations through our QAAC committee and also the Vice President is presenting a new strategic plan at this Council meeting. It is vital that the ECCE structure is renewed in order to modernise and improve. The strategic plan is the vehicle for this development.

EQAR did not allow our registration without some further work on a few standards and suggested a focus review in 18 months' time. The Executive has yet to decide whether it is of value for the ECCE to pursue registration and it would be helpful for Council to debate this issue and give advice.

QAAC

The QAAC is working to develop new standards for accreditation and will be consulting with stakeholders particularly the accredited institutions to take this issue forward.

RCU Maria Cristina, Madrid is having a reaccreditation event in October.

London Southbank University has indicated that they want to start the accreditation process this year.

In June I was able to visit the chiropractic programme at Teeside University and met with the course leader Daniel Moore and my understanding is that they will seek ECCE accreditation in due course as will the new programme in Braunschweig Germany which started with their first cohort of students in October.

The McTimoney college has opened new teaching facilities in Madrid and Hong Kong . The accreditation process has started for the Madrid programme. Accreditation for Hong Kong has yet to start.

There are also possibly new programmes to be established at Coventry University and South Essex College in the UK.

EXECUTIVE

After 7 years in post as President, I have informed the Executive that I wish to retire, thus there is a need for a new President to be voted in at this meeting.

Inga Gossow has stayed on as Treasurer due to our aborted move to Switzerland and I again wish to thank her for her invaluable support. In the middle of arranging our move to Switzerland we were informed by the Spanish Chiropractic Association that they would lose their hard-fought for government insurance scheme if the ECCE was no longer an EU registered accrediting agency. We very much wanted to support the Spanish Chiropractic Association and sought advice from the ECU which had recently undergone a transferral of registration. Ireland was suggested as the laws governing our type of institution are liberal and it is the only EU country conducting its affairs in English negating the need for us to constantly translating our documents into two languages. The Spanish association has also agreed to pay any cost incurred in the proposed Swiss move.

We will therefore need to advertise for a new Treasurer.

Cindy Peterson has also indicated that she wants to leave her post as Quality Assurance Consultant and I want to thank her for all her work over the years and as she is impossible to replace. The Executive have suggested that we create a new Executive post that will take on some of her previous responsibilities together with other needs, a job description has yet to be agreed.

Another of our long term members Graham Mills is also leaving having served for 12 Years and we owe him a lot of gratitude for his input over such a long time, thank you Graham.

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that ECCE is now in a strong position to develop its accrediting credential across Europe. We have 5 years of ENQA accreditation and there are a number of new institutions wanting and needing accreditation from the ECCE ensuring its growth and financial stability. Clearly there will be challenges ahead but with a new strategic plan and a new Executive we should feel confident for our future.

Finally I want to thank Council for letting me serve for these years which has been a privilege and could not have been done without the help of the Executive and of course the eminent Executive Secretary Mandy Stagg who was always there for me assisting on any issue virtually 24 hours a day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Vall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Vall, DC, MA(Ed), D(Ed)h.c.
President