



NEWSLETTER 2 (September 2005)

QUAACAS

Dear all, we are writing to let you know about developments from the Quaacas-group (Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Assessment) of ELFA (European Law Faculties Association). The Committee has met several times in 2005 so far, sometimes physically but mostly by using virtual technology, including Skype, Windows / MSN Messenger, and a Managed Learning Environment (AULA) hosted at the University of Aarhus.

Under the bridge

After the conferences in Utrecht (November 2004), and in Graz (February 2005) where we discussed the development of a Qualifications Framework and Accreditation in European legal studies (http://elixir.bham.ac.uk/menu/quaacas_frameset.htm), Quaacas agreed to cooperate with the Tuning project (Groningen - Deusto) in order to develop such a framework for law. The process will involve cooperation by Law faculties from across the EEA and Accession States in order to elaborate a set of generic and specific (legal) competences.

Appointment of National Representatives

QUAACAS has appointed national representatives to carry out the work of selecting those who will take part in the survey and ensuring the necessary responses. In each jurisdiction there will be a lead player who will galvanise debate and interest, and give information about the tuning process in legal studies for his or her jurisdiction.

A pleasant conference in Bilbao

National Representatives met with the QUAACAS team on 2-3 September in Bilbao at the University of Deusto. QUAACAS is grateful to the Tuning team in Bilbao who made all the local arrangements with great success. There was a thorough discussion of the methodology and draft guidelines for national representatives and as well as an afternoon spent discussing in detail the questionnaires to be used. The post-Bilbao revised versions of these documents will shortly all be on-line at the Quaacas website. Juan Carlos Duque Ametxazurra, Director on International Relations at the University of Deusto, explained the methods used for on-line responses.

Completing the process will involve the use of on-line questionnaires by academics and graduates from selected institutions, and by those in the legal professions and other employers of law graduates. It is hoped that the survey work will be completed by early December 2005.

A full discussion of the initial results will take place at the University of Leuven at the ELFA Annual General Meeting in February 2006. Ultimately an expert-group will assess the results and devise (in consultation) a European-wide qualification framework.

Socrates Thematic Network

Quaacas intends to try and establish a "Law" thematic network. The initial funding application must be presented to the EC Commission on 1 November 2005. The three themes selected are :

- Quality Assurance, benchmarks and learning outcomes in legal studies in Europe
- Accreditation of legal studies in Europe
- Teaching Methodology and Assessment in legal studies in Europe



Join in

We invite you to email a member of the Quaacas team (see foot of page) if you are interested in helping in this work which will be discussed at the forthcoming ELFA Annual conference in Leuven (<http://www.elfa-afde.org/>). At the conference in Leuven a final Thematic Network Project application will be discussed (assuming that we get through round one).

National Representatives from twenty countries have been appointed so far. Please consider helping your national representative if asked. A table of these and is set in the Annex.

Ultimately we intend to try and cover all the countries directly involved in the Sorbonne Bologna process. If you can suggest anyone who might fill in the gaps please get in touch with one of the under-signed members of the QUAACAS Committee. Application forms and further information are to be found at <http://elixir.bham.ac.uk/quaacas/index.htm>.

Yours Sincerely,

Julian Lonbay
Chair, Quaacas Committee

Questions or comments?
Please email one of us.

Members of the QUAACAS Committee

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