

THE QUESTE-SI NEWSLETTER

Dear Partners,

The QUESTE SI Project has come to its end now and it was nice to welcome you in the Vienna University of Technology for the final meeting and the final Awarding Ceremony. As a matter of fact this should not be seen as an end of the project but rather as culmination point for the participation of prestigious institutions of research and higher institution in this challenging project.

After productive and concise progress meetings eleven universities, all over Europe, have acted as pilot institutions and organized the audit visits for all participating institutions including themselves. I am sure that you agree that during the preparation of the self-assessment reports which were a necessary basis for the audits we all learned a lot about our institutions. It was good to see what high level of commitment towards the integration of social responsibility and sustainable development in research and teaching was revealed.

The Awarding Body has met and deliberated over the first QUESTE-SI awards and I am not giving away any vital secrets in saying that the project has demonstrated a high level of responsibility found in the participating institutions. All of them can be proud of the award they received.

Many thanks to all project partners as well as to all pilot institutions and I wish you an exciting and rewarding continuation along the lines traced by QUESTE SI.

Peter Skalicky
TU Wien

Events & Important Dates



28 January, 2013
Awarding Body Meeting



28 - 29 January 2013
Final meeting, Vienna



31 January 2013
Last day of eligibility



15 February 2013
Deadline for all time sheets, travel and subsistence expenses and supporting documents to be delivered to EFMD



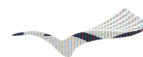
31 March 2013
Deadline for Final Report to be submitted to the Agency



July - August 2013
Expected payment of the final balance

QUESTE-SI NEWS

- Two audit visit took place in January 2013. First one was in Cyprus University of Technology on 16-17 January 2013; second one in EURM on 24-25 January 2013.
- **The Awarding Body Meeting took place on 28 January 2013 in the morning in Vienna.** More information about the Awarding Body on page 5.
- The Final Meeting took place on 28-29 January 2013 in Vienna.
- The **QUESTE-SI WEBZINE** for companies has been published. It can be accessed via the following link:
http://issuu.com/efmd/docs/queste-si_webzine-final?mode=window&viewMode=doublePage
- **Financial reports** (timesheets, travel & subsistence documents) for the whole project to be sent to Pavlina Blazkova by all partners by Friday 15 February 2013.



Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This communication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

QUESTE-SI Award

The QUESTE-SI award is conferred by an Awarding Body on the basis of the following documents: a self-assessment report, prepared by the institution, and a report and recommendations, developed by an audit team after an audit visit. Each of the dimensions is given a rating. This rating goes from one to four squares and is intended to reflect the level of quality reached by the institutional unit. In exceptional cases when a dimension cannot be evaluated, no square is granted. The explanation of each of these quality levels can be found below. The QUESTE-SI award is visualised below.

ONE SQUARE

The institutional unit demonstrates commitment in the dimension but must increase its efforts and progress further.

TWO SQUARES

The institutional unit demonstrates reasonable achievements in the dimension.

THREE SQUARES

The institutional unit demonstrates a high quality level in the dimension.

FOUR SQUARES

The institutional unit demonstrates outstanding quality in this dimension and can be considered as a model of excellence.



This description can be downloaded from the EFMD project website here:

<http://www.efmd.org/index.php/eucooperation-main/current-projects/queste-si>

QUESTE-SI Awarded Pilot Institutions



KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Department of Industrial Ecology
 Sweden



Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)
Institute of Environmental Engineering
 Lithuania



Czech Technical University in Prague (CVUT) Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
 Czech Republic



Riga Technical University (RTU)
Institute of Applied Computer Systems
 Latvia



Brno University of Technology
 Czech Republic

- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Business and Management
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication
- Faculty of Information Technology
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering



Wroclaw University of Technology (WUT)
Faculty of Computer Science and Management
 Poland



Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien)
Continuing Education Center
 Austria



Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)
Mechanical Engineering Department
 Portugal



Télécom Bretagne
General Engineering Programme
 France



Cyprus University of Technology
Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics
 Cyprus



European University – Republic of Macedonia (EURM)
Faculty of Informatics
 Macedonia

QUESTE-SI Pilot Institutions Rating

The QUESTE-SI team is very proud of the results of the pilot phase. Not only was the number of awarded institutions higher than original planned, the final rating given to the institutions shows also a very high quality of the selection.

The individual scores of the awarded pilot universities can be found on their websites. Here only an overview of the institutions that achieved the highest score in the given dimension is presented.

DIMENSION 1 Strategy



DIMENSION 2 Education & Curriculum



DIMENSION 4 Research & Innovation



DIMENSION 3 Students' Involvement



QUESTE-SI Awarding Body

The QUESTE-SI Awarding Body is a Peer-review based committee composed by highly respected individuals with significant experience on Higher Education management. It evaluates the information available on the institutions and teaching units applying for QUESTE-SI evaluation process and, based on their recommendations, makes the final decision to confer the QUESTE-SI level with a level on the different dimensions of the label.

Membership is done after accepting the invitation from the QUESTE-SI secretariat. Candidates are selected among academics with present or past responsibilities in higher education management, members of professional education associations and members from institutions devoted to sustainable development. The Awarding Body is expected to have not less than 8 and not more than 14 members.

The Awarding Body in the current composition is supposed to function for 5 years.

Evaluation is done through the QUESTE-SI intranet (<http://plone.queste.eu/reserved-for-awarding-body-1>). Each institution and institutional unit is evaluated based on the self-assessment report, addenda after the audit visit and the auditor visit report.

In order to ensure consistent approach for all institutions, a specialist appointed from the Awarding Body members, so called Dimension Referent assesses each dimension independently.

For each of the institutional units, the secretary of the Awarding Body appoints a counter-reporter. His/her mission is to give a mark on each of the dimensions using the information available.

Once this mark is given, the secretary of the awarding body will establish a deadline for the members of the awarding body to give a rating. Members of the awarding body will not provide a mark on their own institutions. After the deadline, the secretary will proceed to provide the average value rounding to the closest integer number.

The final decision is taken during a face-to-face meeting where results will be published.

Awarding Body Composition

President:

Anders Flödstrom, vice-president of EIT, former rector KTH, president of cluster, chancellor of Swedish Universities.

Secretary:

Juan J. Perez, professor of the UPC former vice-rector UPC, president of cluster

Members:

Peter Skalicky, Deputy chairman of the Austrian Council of Research, former rector TU Wien

Fiona Martland, Director of the Engineering Professors' Council

Eric Cornuel, CEO, EFMD

Didier Lombard, President, EFEED

Carlo Parietti, President, EUROCADRES

Pedro Loutie, Professor, IST Lisbon

Former Secretary of State of Higher Education Portugal

Yuri P. Pakholkov, President of the Russian Association for Eng. Education, former rector of Tomsk Technical University

Muzio Gola, Vice-rector for quality assurance. Politecnico de Torino

Observers:

André Staropoli, former secretary general du Conseil National d'Evaluation, Advisory Board senior representative

René-François Bernard, QUESTE-SI, technical coordinator

Awarding Body Ceremony



QUESTE-SI

40th
anniversary
EFMD

ENQHEE



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

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QUESTE-SI What's Next

Continuation of the project website that ensures the visibility of the label and provides institutions with all the necessary documentation and platform for self-assessment and scoring.

The partners are committed to sustain the QUESTE-SI initiative after the completion of the project by maintaining the links on their websites and carrying on with the dissemination and provision of information.

The dissemination of the label and the QUESTE-SI initiative will also be carried on by the awarded institutions themselves, as this is in their interest to promote the accreditation and ensure its visibility. As for comparable educational labels (such as EPAS or EQUIS) it is expected an imitation effect attracting institutions. It is also expected that an informal community of QUESTE-awarded institutions will emerge, supporting the efforts of the label to attract new candidate institutions and maintain the flow of information, in particular towards students and companies.

EFMD and ENQHEEI, as the most prominent networks, will carry on supporting the initiative among their members but also among their associated networks. In particular, EFMD will carry on disseminating the information among its corporate membership. EFMD, as the coordinator of EQUAL (European Quality Link) will carry on promoting QUESTE-SI along the various national and regional quality assurance networks.

The QUESTE-SI project is conceived as a community initiative and this characteristic should facilitate the circulation of information among the various audiences.

Under the responsibility of Kaunas TU, an informal group of the pilot institutions has been created and will ensure the promotion of the label. The first scheduled is a training and information seminar, organised under the Lithuanian Presidency. Information about the date of the event will be circulated to all partners in due time.



During the initial phase, the participation of the pilot institutions was largely financed through the project, as the audit and travel costs were covered by the EU funding. In the future, the QUESTE-SI should be transformed into a paying scheme, in order to allow some costs to be covered by the institutions. This approach is similar to the one of all accreditations proposed in the Higher Education domain, where the institutions pay a fee to the accreditation organisation.

Partners are currently discussing the amount that would be asked to candidate institutions, taking into account that this service should be offered on a non-profit basis. However, the institutions should contribute to the cost coverage of the process and consider it as part of the investment realised to improve their overall quality. Besides, asking the institutions to contribute to the cost coverage also reinforces their motivation and commitment towards the process.

Based on these discussions and review of existing models a business plan is currently being developed.

Partner in Focus



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN
Vienna University of Technology

Vienna University of Technology was founded in 1815 as a Polytechnical Institute according to the model of the Ecole Polytechnique in France. In the middle of the 19th century became a „Technische Hochschule“ with a rector on top and was organized in faculties. An important date was 1901, when the institution received the right to award PhDs. In 1975 the name was changed to Technische Universität Wien (Vienna University of Technology). Today, TU Vienna is one of the major research universities in Science and Engineering in Europe. The studies are organized according to the Bologna Process. In total more than 27 000 students study at TU Vienna. There are eight faculties: Mathematics and Geoinformation, Physics, Technical Chemistry, Informatics, Architecture and Urban Planning, Civil Engineering, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology.

Teaching and Research are performed by more than 3200 scientists which are supported by more than 1100 non-scientific staff. TU Wien puts a lot of emphasis on research publications and is proud to „produce“ more than 200 PhDs per year. There is a strong cooperation with Industry. Via research contracts with Industry and basic research projects the University generates about one third of its budget. Since 2002 TU Wien tries to make the most of the possibilities of the Autonomy Law for Austrian Universities (UG2002). The institution is managed by a rectorate (a rector together with four vice rectors) according to the principles of modern management. The control mechanisms are due to a University Board (consisting of seven people nominated by the university and the government). There is a Senat consisting of representatives of all groups of the university. The Senat has the last word in all matters of studies.

TU Vienna is committed to international cooperation and exchange of students. Around 26% of the regular students are foreigners. On top of that TU Vienna hosts about 600 foreign exchange students for one or two semesters per year. As the administration of TU Vienna is very service centered, there are numerous activities to integrate foreign students (buddy network, welcome days etc.).

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