

EAIR Forum – Rome

Special Interest Group on *Quality in Higher Education*

Wednesday, 30th August 2006, 10.30 – 12.30

Location – Aula Magna (-2nd Floor)

‘Quality enhancement: meanings, impacts, and opportunities’

Programme

10.30 Opening Plenary (Aula Magna)

- ◆ Introduction and overview of today’s Workshop Programme (Jethro Newton)
- ◆ Some observations on the SIG 2006 theme ‘Quality enhancement: meanings, impacts, and opportunities’ (Alan Davidson)
- ◆ Briefing on ‘Group Tasks’ and ‘Plenary’ (Jethro Newton)

10.50 Discussion Groups

- ◆ Topics:
‘What does the term ‘quality enhancement mean’?’;
‘How is the concept shaping what is going on in institutions, and in national systems?’
- ◆ There are 12 Discussion Groups, each with a Group Facilitator
- ◆ All ‘Breakout’ rooms are located on -1st and -2nd Floors (both below ground level)
- ◆ All SIG participants have been allocated to a Discussion Group (see list)

11.20 Coffee

11.30 Continue Discussion Groups

12.00 Final Plenary

- ◆ Reflections on group discussions: main themes emerging
- ◆ Arrangements for publishing short summaries of group discussions
- ◆ Discussion of proposal to hold a ‘Mid-year’ EAIR SIG on a ‘Quality’ topic

12.30 Close

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‘Quality enhancement: meanings, impacts, and opportunities’

Discussion Group Arrangements

Introduction

The SIG workshop is designed to provide a relaxed, informal opportunity to make contacts, and to share experiences, approaches, and questions about the current scene in quality assurance and enhancement. The emphasis is on encouraging dialogue and discussion, and helping participants to gain an overview of what is going on in the international scene.

Discussion Topics

This year’s topics have been selected to enable participants to reflect on how quality enhancement is shaping policy and practice, and how it can assist improvement of the student experience.

Each ‘breakout group’ has a facilitator. The intention is to publish a brief summary of the main headlines of each group’s discussion via the EAIR website after the Forum. Each group is asked to nominate a note-taker. We hope that the group discussions, the plenary, and the published summaries will provide opportunities to ‘network’ and to establish contacts for future sharing of practice and exchange of ideas.

Groups are invited to spend about 20 minutes or so discussing Topic 1, and then to spend the remaining 30 minutes or so on Topic 2. Please allow 10 minutes or so to assist the group note-taker to jot down the main points of your discussion.

Topic 1: ‘What does the term ‘quality enhancement mean?’

This topic could enable groups to open up discussion of distinctions and relationships between quality assurance and quality enhancement, and also to engage in discussion of meanings, messages, agendas etc.

Topic 2: ‘How is the concept of quality enhancement shaping what is going on in institutions, and in national systems?’

This topic provides an opportunity to identify and share examples of good practice. Are there perhaps two or three examples which your group finds particularly interesting, and which members would like to share with other SIG participants?

Briefing Papers

If you would like to do some pre-Forum reading, or to ‘catch up’ with some reading after the Forum, we would recommend that you dip into the quality enhancement debate led by Professor Norman Jackson in the UK several years ago. This is accessible through the UK Higher Education Academy web site at:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/896.htm>

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/919.htm>

We look forward to meeting you in Rome!

Jethro Newton and Alan Davidson