

## COMMUNICATION TO LICENSED FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

<i>Title:</i> Report on 'Progress in Quality Assurance in Higher Education' by the European Commission		
<i>From:</i> Sandro Spiteri, Director	<i>Date:</i> 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	<i>Comm. No.:</i> 03/2014

Dear colleagues

Today we received the following important communication from the European Commission, which may be of interest to you.

Dear Colleagues,

As part of the follow-up to the Agenda for the Modernisation of Higher Education, the European Commission adopted today its report on "**Progress in Quality Assurance in Higher Education**". This report follows the first published in 2009.

The report sets out how quality assurance is helping to establish a quality culture in Europe's universities and colleges, setting quality goals, involving students in decisions and fostering international cooperation among Member States and their quality assurance agencies. But quality assurance needs further reform to shift from a box-ticking approach to really supporting institutions in improving performance, helping them deal with challenges such as expanding the student population, aligning teaching and learning more closely to societal and labour market needs and harnessing new ICT-based technologies, in an atmosphere of transparency and openness.

The European Union will continue to support Member States in developing their quality systems. Higher education institutions and Quality Assurance Agencies can use the funding opportunities through Erasmus+, the European Union programme for mobility and cooperation in education, training, youth and sport, to develop partnerships to learn from each other in developing quality cultures. Member States can invest in quality assurance using funding from the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Links to the related Press release and the report:

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-83\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-83_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/doc/quality\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/doc/quality_en.pdf)

With kind regards,

**Adam TYSON**

Head of Unit

**European Commission**

DG Education and Culture

Regards

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