



Key Activity 4

Dissemination and exploitation of results

Examples of good practice
2007 - 2011

From Lifelong Learning Programme...
...to Erasmus+

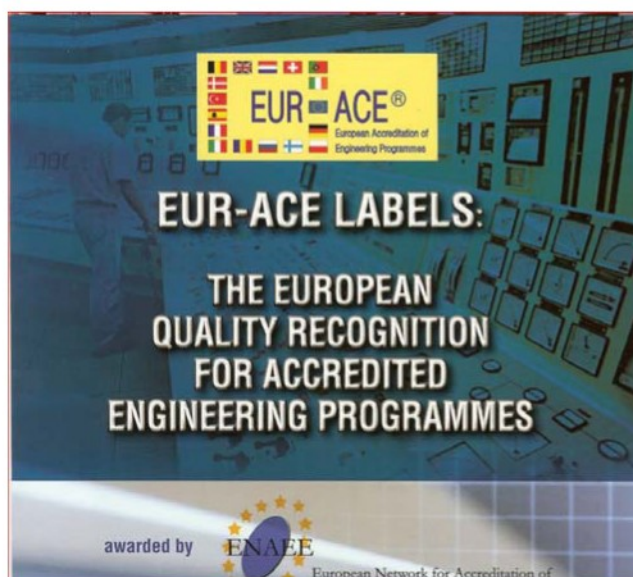
European Engineering Accreditation - EUR-ACE SPREAD

Aims of the project

The aims of the EUR-ACE projects arose from the fact that Europe lacked a generally accepted system of accreditation of engineering education. The EUR-ACE project (2004/06), the EUR-ACE IMPLEMENTATION (2006/08) and the Tempus PRO-EAST (2006/07) elaborated and implemented the “EUR-ACE Framework Standards for the Accreditation of Engineering Programmes” and proposed the “EUR-ACE Accreditation System”, in which national/regional Agencies accredit the programmes and the common European quality label “EUR-ACE” is added to the accreditation. A permanent not-for-profit International Association (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education - ENAEE) was established in 2006 for running the EUR-ACE system, and the EUR-ACE Label Committee was set up. In 2007 the EUR-ACE project was launched in France, Germany, UK, Ireland, Portugal and Russia. The EUR-ACE SPREAD project was designed to expand the EUR-ACE system to other European countries within the LLP area. The consortium was constituted by countries that were not yet a part of the EUR-ACE system (Italy, Turkey, Romania, Lithuania and Switzerland).

Tool box

The fixed objectives of the project have been fulfilled. In 2009 the Turkish “Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Engineering Programs” MÜDEK was authorized to award the EUR-ACE Label. Other Associations/Agencies started their progress towards the EUR-ACE-authorization: the Lithuanian “Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education” SKVC, the “Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education” ARACIS, the Italian “Association for Quality Certification and Accreditation of Engineering Programmes” (QUACING), the Swiss National Quality Assurance Agency OAQ, the “Netherlands & Flanders Accreditation Organization” NVAO, the Polish Committee for Accreditation of Technical Universities KAUT. As follow-ups of the project, ARACIS and QUACING have been EUR-ACE-authorized in 2012 and KAUT in 2013; OAQ is likely to follow soon. The partnership achieved the objectives to submit the updated versions of many essential documents regarding the EUR-ACE system to ENAEE



Dissemination

The spreading of the EUR-ACE system is an on-going process. All partners of the project will continue to disseminate the “good practices” of the project since they all have a strong network of contacts in the engineering community.

The project has indeed addressed the interests of several target stakeholders groups, in particular employers, Higher Education institutions, engineering and technology students, and engineers’ professional organisations.

A substantial part of the project objectives was represented by the organization of conferences (e.g. the Mid-Term conference in Istanbul on March 1st, 2010, the Final Conference in Brussels on October 25th, 2010). Additional information on these events is also available on the EUR-ACE SPREAD website (through the www.enaee.eu).

Exploitation

The project has successfully promoted the exploitation of results through the implementation of the EUR-ACE system and the organization of conferences. The “spreading effect” has been assured through (i) the European “academia”, thanks to the contribution of SEFI, IGIP, students’ organisations etc. (ii) the mobility of teachers and trainers within the LLP.

It can be said that EUR-ACE is already well known the world over, as several instances prove: e.g. the invitation of Prof. Augusti to present EUR-ACE at the General Assembly of the “Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan” in May 2010, and an article published in the Engineers Australia magazine (EUR-ACE described under the title “Accreditation reaches milestone in Europe”).

Impact

EUR-ACE SPREAD has succeeded in starting to widely spread the EUR-ACE engineering accreditation system. At the time of writing (October 2013), the EUR-ACE system is systematically applied in 10 EHEA countries (8 in the EU: Italy, Poland, Romania, Portugal, Ireland, UK, France, Germany; 2 outside: TR and RU).

To these, Belgium can be added, thanks to an agreement between the French CTI and the French-Belgian AEQES. More than 1200 “EUR-ACE labels” have been awarded throughout the EHEA.

Testimonials

"While the Swiss OAQ is close to being authorized to award the EUR-ACE label, a few more Agencies have submitted their application and are now defined “Candidate Agencies”: the Finnish FINHEEC and the Spanish ANECA. It is interesting to note that ANECA, that has accredited HE programmes in all fields for several years, has decided to accredit jointly with the Engineers’ Association “IIE – Instituto de la Ingenieria de España”: this underlines the significance of the EUR-ACE label as a guarantee of both the academic quality of an engineering programme and its suitability as an “entry route to the engineering profession”.

Last but not least, the Contracting Institution is looking forward on how to promote the initiative of a European “discussion group” which could lead a study of compatibility of the EUR-ACE system vs. other major worldwide recognised accreditation systems, such as the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) and the so-called “Washington Accord”.

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- **Partner countries:** Belgium, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Turkey, Romania, Switzerland,
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- **Grant:** 285 940 euro
- **Project's web page:** <http://www.enaee.eu/eur-ace-system>

