International Lifelong Learning Network

Activity from December 2017 onwards

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Outward

- SQA will host its International centres event and will exhibit at the EDEX Education Exhibition in Colombo, **Sri Lanka** in January.

- SQA will exhibit at the annual Michigan Career Conference in Grand Rapids, **USA** in January.

- SQA will visit **Mexico City** and hold meetings with senior representatives from IMP CONOCER (National Awarding Body) and SENER (Ministry of Energy) to discuss future areas of collaboration in February.

- SQA will exhibit at the annual Community Colleges for International Development Conference (CCID) in Arizona, **USA** in February.

- SQA will exhibit at the Offshore Technology Asia Conference in **Kuala Lumpur**, Malaysia in March.

- SQA will visit **Nepal** to meet with key education stakeholders as part of a business development visit in March.

- SQA will hold the annual strategic meeting with Chinese partner, Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) and also participate in the annual meeting of SQA centres in **Beijing**, China in March.

- SQA will host the annual China HND Ambassador Awards in **Beijing** in March

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality Scotland) Inward

- Week beginning 19th February 2018 – visit from a PhD student from **Azerbaijan** – Rasiya Isayeva, who is looking at student engagement in University management/governance.

- 20 February 2018 – hosting an **Azerbaijan** PhD student at sparqs' Academic Representation Co-ordinators' Network meeting.

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality, Scotland) Outward

- 17-18 January 2018 – Institutional Analysis Workshops at IT Tralee and IT Sligo in **Ireland,** as part of the NStEP programme.

- 19 January 2018 - NStEP project work at NUI Galway, **Ireland.**

- 22 January 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Dublin Institute of Technology, **Ireland,** as part of the NStEP programme.

- 23 January 2018 – attending HE Forum, Dublin, **Ireland.** The Forum (the body which looks after cross-sector, including NStEP) will be discussing what happens after the March 2019 project lifetime.

- 23 January 2018 - NStEP project meeting in Dublin, **Ireland**, re project 1 work-stream re the course rep role.

- 24 January 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Griffith College, Dublin, **Ireland** as part of the NStEP programme

- 20 March 2018 - Institutional Analysis Workshop at Dublin City University, **Ireland**, as part of the NStEP programme.

- Week beginning 19th March 2018 – other possible NStEP related work in **Ireland** while there for 20th March session.

Education Scotland Inward activity

(28 and 29 January 2018) – European colleagues from France and SHE Network, **Denmark** will be visiting Education Scotland for an international study trip

QAA Scotland

International Insights Webinar, **Hong Kong** - 23 January 2018

Our latest webinar focuses on the higher education regulatory framework in Hong Kong, providing the opportunity to hear from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications, and to ask the questions that are most relevant to your institution. Please note, this webinar is open to QAA subscribers only.

QAA Annual Conference 2018 - The UK Quality Summit - 24-25 April 2018 - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, **Cardiff**

QAA's Annual Conference 2018, the UK Quality Summit, will bring together thought leaders, decision makers, quality experts and students to share insight, inspiration and innovation. Keynote speakers will inspire and challenge thinking on how to create impact through quality assurance and innovation, while exploring the latest developments in a changing higher education policy landscape. Poster submissions on impact and innovation in quality will soon open. For more information, please email conference2018@qaa.ac.uk.

SCQF(Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)

Registration remains open for the 2018 conference: *The SCQF: Linking the Learning Journey*, which takes place on Thursday 22 February 2018 at the Glasgow Radisson Blu hotel. The conference will showcase all aspects of the Framework demonstrating its breadth and flexibility as a tool to facilitate lifelong learning in Scotland and its links with Scottish Government policy such as The Learner Journey, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), the Commission on Widening Access. The main conference will be hosted by Paul McKelvie, OBE, former Scotland Commissioner to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES).
The opening address will be given by John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister for Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.
Other confirmed speakers at the conference include:

- Audrey Cumberford, Principal and CEO of West College Scotland
- Grahame Smith, General Secretary, STUC
- Professor Sir Peter Scott, Commissioner for Fair Access

More information is available on the SCQF website at http://scqf.org.uk/scqf-2018-conference-registration-launch/

The next meeting of the Erasmus+ funded "D'Ahoy" project takes place in Brest, **France** on 25 January. This project which aims to develop innovative active learning activities for decision making skills which can be integrated into a Decision Skills Framework for HE and VET learners in STEM and engineering with an emphasis on the maritime sector.

SCQF Partnership presented the Scotland Country Report "Including non-formal sector qualifications in the national qualifications framework - the experiences and solutions of 7 European countries" at the NQF-IN Project conference in **Prague** on 9th of November 2017.
The aim of the conference was to present and discuss organisational and financial solutions regarding the inclusion of non-formal sector qualifications in the NQFs in seven European countries: Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, and Scotland. The Scotland country report and more details about NQF-IN can be viewed on the SCQF website at http://scqf.org.uk/nqf-in-project/   The NQF-IN project will culminate with an event in Warsaw, Poland in mid-2018.

The SCQF Partnership have recently welcomed a new **Development Officer**, Lydia George, to work in the Quality and International Development Team. Working alongside the existing members of the team, Lydia will be directly involved with the D'Ahoy and NQF-in projects, support the delivery of the international study visits and develop new opportunities for working in partnership internationally. Lydia can be contacted on L.George@scqf.org.uk or +44 (0)141 225 2926.

RSE

28 February 2018 - RSE International Committee Strategy meeting

Week beginning 5 March 2018- RSE-NSFC-CAS high-level research and innovation forum (Beijing) A delegation of 8 speakers in total from the Oil & Gas and DataLab Innovation Centres along with RSE representatives will travel out to **Beijing** to take part in the joint Forum.

3 May 2018 RSE-JSPS Joint event. The RSE will be holding a joint event with the **Japan** Society for the Promotion of Science on the topic of Organic Electronics.

Key Activities over past three months

UKCISA

UKCISA held a members seminar at the **University of Strathclyde** on 23 November 2017. This showcased recent projects and research that were funded through the UKCISA Grants Scheme. The scheme is supported by the Scottish Government. Details of the event and links to publications on the projects and research are on the UKCISA website.

https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Training--Events/Member-seminars/Member-Seminars-2017-18#layer-6433

UKCISA have now started preparing for their **50th anniversary** conference which will take place in Edinburgh in June 2018.

SQA Outward

- SQA visited the State of Georgia, **USA** to meet with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and various technical colleges to discuss possible areas of collaboration in October.

- SQA representatives attended the annual Muscat College Graduation in **Oman** in November.

- SQA attended the Scottish Development International trade mission to the **United Arab Emirates** in November.

- SQA met and progressed discussions with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in **Bangladesh** in December following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in November.

SQA Inward

- SQA hosted a **China** Government sponsored study visit of 15 delegates from the Higher Education and Research Sectors in October.

- SQA hosted a visit from the Dean, Vice Dean and other senior representatives from the Institute of Consulting Research and Studies, Umm Al-Qura University, **Saudi Arabia** in October.

- SQA hosted delegates from the Kerala Skills Mission, **India** who were visiting key education and industry stakeholders in the UK in November.

- SQA hosted **UK-China** high level discussions with our partner Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) in December. Other representatives included the Chinese Consulate General in Edinburgh; Director of British Council China; and Chinese and Scottish universities

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality Scotland)

- 4-6 October 2017 – joint co-ordination (along with University of Edinburgh and EUSA) of a study visit to Edinburgh of around 40 delegates from European neighbourhood countries as part of a **SPHERE** (Support for Higher Education Reform Expert) initiative. SPHERE is managed by a Team of the University of Barcelona (UB) and the European University Association (EUA) on behalf of the European Commission, which finances the Initiative.

- 9-10 October 2017 - invited by the Council on Higher Education in **South Africa** to facilitate workshops with both staff and students on how to create structures and approaches to productive student participation in quality. Part of an ongoing Quality Enhancement Project in South Africa.

- 9-10 October 2017 - final ESPAQ Management Meeting and Advisory Board meeting – Brussels, **Belgium**.

- 13-15 October 2017 – Presentation and workshop with students at inaugural NOKUT (Norwegian Quality Agency) National Centres of Excellence Seminar in Oslo, **Norway.**

- 23-27 October 2017 – hosting a study visit to Edinburgh of 6 **Armenian** students as part of the ESPAQ project.

- 13-15 November 2017 – attended Student Engagement Network Launch in Cork, **Ireland,** as part of the NStEP programme, undertaking consultancy work with project leaders within the programme, and conducted an induction meeting for one of NStEP's six 2017-18 Institutional Analysis participants.

- 14 November 2017 – presented at the ESPAQ final conference in Yerevan, **Armenia**. Including launch of the student handbook on Student Engagement in Armenia, developed by sparqs as part of the project.

- 15 November 2017 – Institutional Analysis workshop at IT Tralee in **Ireland**, as part of the NStEP programme.

- 15-17 November 2017 – hosted a visit to Edinburgh of the **Estonian** student quality network, following a request by them.

- 22 November 2017 – meeting at ESU in Brussels, **Belgium**, to discuss how sparqs might work with ESU and other European organisations post-Brexit.

- 23 November 2017 – interview on Student Engagement with Hannah Clarke, sparqs Development Consultant, in the **Norwegian** Quality Agency (NOKUT)'s SFU magazine (Winter 2017 issue).

- 23-25 November 2017 – attended the 12th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) annual conference in Riga, **Latvia.**

- 12 December 2017 – Consultancy Support to Letterkenny Institute of Technology in **Ireland,** as part of the NStEP programme.

- 13 December 2017 – planning meeting in Letterkenny, **Ireland** with NStEP Project Lead re project 1 work-stream re the course rep role.

- 13 December 2017 – Institutional Analysis Induction session at Maynooth University in **Ireland** as part of the NStEP programme.

- 14 December 2017 – jointly hosted (along with QAA Scotland) a visit of 12 staff from NOKUT (Norwegian Quality Agency), following input to their National Centres of Excellence seminar in October 2017 in Oslo, **Norway**.

Education Scotland Inward activity

- 28 December 2017 to 30 December 2017) – Colleagues from SHE Network, **Denmark** visited Education Scotland too allow ES to share its expertise.

- (20 November 2017 to 01 December 2017) – colleagues from **Kuwait** visited Education Scotland for inspectorate training.

Education Scotland Outward activity

- (23 October 2017) – visited the **Irish** Inspectorate to discuss Scottish Attainment Challenge. The purpose was to share experiences with another inspectorate – collaboration at strategic professional level and to share successes re tackling the poverty-related attainment gap.

- (06 November 2017) – attended the European Commission in Eurydice, **Belgium**. The working meeting was a requirement of acting as the Eurydice National Unit for Scotland. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Eurydice web site and receive professional development on writing for the web.

- (08 November to 10 November 2017) – attended the CIDREE Conference in **Dublin,** Ireland. Organised and hosted by National Council of Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

- (12 December to 14 December 2017) – participated in the Erasmus+ dissemination event and project partners meeting, on theme of Student Voice in Dublin, **Ireland**. This meeting was with NCCA, Ireland (government curriculum agency).

- (31 October to 02 November 2017) - attended the European Agency Bi Annual Meeting in Lisbon, **Portugal**. The output of the EASNIE work continues to influence policy direction in relation to inclusion and equality.

- (08 to 11 November 2017) – attended an International Conference on Assessment in **Prague.**

- (26 October and 27 October 2017) – attended the Slovenian National Science Conference at Lasko, **Slovenia**. This gave ES the opportunity to engage in professional dialogue with practitioners and educational leaders in Slovenia about innovations and best practice in driving forward science interventions.

QAA Scotland

QAA Scotland has published its **Annual Report** for 2016-17.

QAA's new **Subscriber Community** has launched. It offers subscribers access to the latest information, advice and guidance from QAA. Once you have joined the community you'll have direct access to relevant quality assurance resources and QAA expertise on key topics. You'll also be able to ask and answer questions, share experiences and engage in constructive conversations with other quality assurance professionals. In this virtual meeting place you will discover:

- Good practice case studies: Peer-reviewed case studies that provide examples of current good practice and new ways of working.
- International Insights: A valuable resource for anyone working internationally who wants to know more about an individual country before considering a new partnership.
- Focus On: A range of resources on multiple topics such as support for postgraduate students who teach, institution-led reviews and postgraduate research student experience.
- Quality Enhancement Network: An opportunity to meet colleagues from across the sector to discuss topics relevant to quality assurance.
- Regional Networks: A chance to meet quality practitioners locally so that you can share ideas and update your knowledge.
- Annual Subscriber Conference: Details of this yearly conference that brings together experts in quality assurance from the UK and overseas to discuss high profile topics.

To join the Subscriber Community, you can request a log in by emailing: subscribercommunity@qaa.ac.uk.

Publication of ENQA Self-Assessment Report - This report has been prepared for our third review by ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), which will take place from 19-22 February 2018.

Country Report: The Republic of Ireland - QAA has recently published this report, which is part of a series of country reports that QAA, as part of its contractual arrangement with the four national funding bodies, regularly produces to offer higher education providers an insight into the higher education and regulatory landscape of key countries for UK transnational education.

Transnational Education Review Handbook - September 2017 - This revised and updated handbook for Transnational Education (TNE) Review incorporates feedback from the review of UK TNE in Ireland, and will come into effect in January 2018 as part of our review of UK TNE in Hong Kong.

Transnational Education in the European Higher Education Area. - This took place on 7th November at Queen's University **Belfast.** A joint conference of QAA, and Quality and Qualifications Ireland. Presentations from the event can be found online.

SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)

- SCQF Partnership hosted a two day study visit in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University on 16 & 17 November for the **Swedish** National Delegation for Validation, a delegation appointed by the Swedish government under the Ministry of Education.

- Representatives from SCQFP attended the final conference of the EU Twinning project 'Further Improvement of the system for development and implementation of the National Qualifications Framework' in Skopje, **Macedonia** on 10 October 2017.

- The SCQF Partnership **Annual Impact Report** 2016/17 has now been published It aims to demonstrate the impact that the SCQF and the Partnership have made in the lifelong learning landscape in Scotland and beyond. Download the report here:
- http://scqf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/SCQF-Annual-Impact-Report-2016-17-FINAL.pdf

- The SCQF **Framework diagram** has now been updated to incorporate the new Graduate Apprenticeships at SCQF levels 9, 10 and 11 & Higher Apprenticeships at SCQF level 8. In addition, in line with guidance from SQA, as SVQs with an established SCQF level no longer include the SVQ level in their titles, SVQ levels have been removed. Hard copies of the updated A6 postcard and the A3 and A0 sized posters are available upon request or to download

NUS/NUS Scotland Outward

- Mike Day, International and NUS-USI Director was key note speaker at a conference organised by Landelijke Studentenvakbond – LSVb (national student representatives in the **Netherlands**) on governance. Conference was held in Utrecht on 30 September to 2 October. Visits were also made to Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg – ISO the other national union in the Netherlands.

- Delegates from NUS attended the 74th European Students' Union Seminar and Board Meeting in Jerusalem, **Israel** from 27 November to 3 December, hosted by the National Union of Israeli Students - NUIS. The seminar focused on innovation and entrepreneurship, the boards focus was on the upcoming EHEA Ministerial and developing HE policy around access. Delegates also took the opportunity to visit the Palestinian Federation of Student Councils in Ramallah, Palestinian Territories. The study visit was organised by Danske Studerendes Fællesråd – DSF (the national student representative organisation in Denmark) who have been leading a project to develop student representation in the Palestinian Territories.

NUS/NUS Scotland Inward

- A delegation from Landelijke Studentenvakbond – LSVb (national student representatives in the **Netherlands**) made a study visit to NUS to discuss how we developed our commercial services. This took place 6 – 8 October.

- NUS Wales hosted the European Students Convention (run by the European Students' Union) in Cardiff from 9 – 13 October, The conference focussed on the future of higher education, and discussed the implications of Brexit and learning in a second language amongst other areas. The event was attended by representatives from Unioni i Studentëve të Kosovës (KSU the national student representative organisation in **Kosovo**) who were attending for the first time to discuss candidate membership of the European Students' Union. NUS Scotland has been working with KSU for the last three years to help develop their structures and capacity as part of a TEMPUS project. The project is now complete.

- On 24 November 2017 a delegation from ANSA – ՀՈւՄՄ (the national student representative organisation in **Armenia**) visited NUS Scotland to learn about our influencing strategies as well as concluding the TEMPUS partnership project with sparqs.

RSE

Week beginning 6 November 2017 RSE-NSFC Annual Joint Workshop
The RSE/NSFC annual workshop was held in **Beijing** on the topic of Synthetic Biology in November 2017.

15 November 2017 The 2017 Franco-Scottish seminar was held on the topic of 'Robotics'.

15 November 2017 Franco-Scottish Public Lecture. delivered by Professor Sethu Vijayakumar FRSE, entitled, Shared Autonomy: The Future of Interactive Robotics.

25 January 2018 Meeting of National Academies and Other Relevant Bodies
A meeting took place with senior representatives from Overseas and UK based National Academies, at the RSE, to discuss how National Academies can tackle global challenges. Topics covered included, Climate Change, Ageing Population, Refugees and Migration, Sustainable Development and Global Health.

26 January 2018 Meeting with **Taipei** Representative Office in the UK

Other major international activity

SPARQS (student partnerships in quality Scotland)

- Ongoing – international expert to the **Australian** Advisory Group for HE Fellowship, following contribution to a successful application for an Australian Learning and Teaching Senior National Teaching Fellowship in 2016 entitled Creating a National Framework for Student Partnership in University Decision-making and Governance

SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)

In October 2017, we joined with colleagues from Croatia, Poland and Macedonia (FYROM) in Skopje to take part in a conference to mark the end of almost two years of work to support the implementation of a National Qualifications Framework for **Macedonia** (FYROM). The Twinning Project had as its main aim the development of a comprehensive National Qualifications Framework (NQF) aligned to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) which would improve the transparency, access and quality of qualifications in the country.

This project has supported the work of the Ministry of Education and Science to review the legislation and update the protocols to improve the working practices required for qualification systems functioning. It has also strengthened the institutional capacity for implementation of an effective qualifications system. Working with the Ministry of Education and stakeholders a set of tools including a comprehensive NQF Manual and Road Map for implementation of the NQF along with a specification for the Register for National Qualifications aligned to the NQF was also produced.

Following a review and tendering process earlier this year we appointed an external agency to design and develop our new **website** which will be launched in the coming weeks.
The SCQF homepage design is being completely revamped, while still retaining the look and feel of the SCQF brand and in redesigning the site structure, we will reduce the number of levels within the site and cut down on clicks. This will make it easier for users to find information and navigate the many different areas of the site including news and information about our European and International engagement and activity

RSE

IEP Bilateral Exchange Programme
The RSE's International Programme seeks to increase Scotland's research and development connections internationally; and increase the number of world-class science and culture researchers working in Scotland. The RSE administers exchange schemes to provide researchers of at least post-doctoral status with short visit opportunities (normally up to four weeks) to and from Scotland, with a view to developing relationships leading to collaborative projects and levering further research funding from other sources. The deadlines for these schemes are quarterly in late February, May, August and November. Between November 2017 and January 2017, 2 applications were supported by the RSE.