

Joint declaration

Tuesday 7 February 2017 – CTI National Conference

Harmonisation and development of external quality assurance procedures for engineering schools

The French High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES) and the Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)¹ work to improve the French higher education quality assurance system in line with the European framework (European Standards & Guidelines, ESG). In accordance with the responsibilities granted to each body by law, CTI and HCERES are looking to make their activities more efficient while simplifying the work of institutions. This is the purpose of the cooperation framework agreement signed on 23 September 2016.

- 1) In the interest of institutions and the simplification of procedures, external evaluation of engineering schools conducted by HCERES shall be based on the accreditation opinions and decisions of CTI. In return, the evaluations conducted by CTI shall draw on HCERES evaluation reports.

Harmonisation of evaluation and accreditation schedules will help plan coordinated evaluation missions.

- 2) HCERES and CTI undertake to develop a continuous improvement policy for their respective processes. The cooperation agreement shall serve as the suitable framework for analysing procedures, practices and outputs with a view to making changes for engineering schools, and more generally, higher education institutions.
- 3) The procedure for validation of external evaluations in the HCERES report dated June 2016 (<http://www.hceres.com/PUBLICATIONS/Methodological-documentation/Charter-Procedure-Commissions>) shall not apply to the CTI accreditation procedure. By virtue of the French Education Code, accreditation for issuing official French engineering qualifications requires external evaluation conducted by CTI.
- 4) To ensure that engineering study programmes and study programmes in other fields have the most consistent external evaluation possible, the joint working group created by the cooperation agreement is tasked with comparative analysis of the CTI evaluation / accreditation process and the HCERES methodological and ethical standards, in line with the June 2016 report.

This analysis shall be sent to the Presidents of HCERES and CTI with a view to taking it into account in its conclusions and any recommendations by the respective internal bodies.

- 5) CTI shall be consulted and involved in work conducted by HCERES on modifying the French higher education evaluation framework.

¹ French Engineering Accreditation Body

- 6) CTI and HCERES are members of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), are listed on the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) and are involved in the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). They work with counterpart agencies within the European Higher Education Area to develop exchanges in Europe and internationally, with a view to the continuous improvement of the quality of higher education.

HCERES and CTI actively contribute to the promotion and implementation of the ESG in France and to the strengthening of the "Bologna Process", for which France currently provides the secretariat.

Press contacts

CTI / Julie Nolland - +33 (0)1 73 04 34 31 - relations.presse@cti-commission.fr

HCERES / Caroline Cordier – +33 (0)1 55 55 61 63 – caroline.cordier@hceres.fr

Find out more

CTI is an independent body, which, since 1934, has been responsible under French law for accrediting (private schools) or evaluating with a view to accreditation (public schools) all programmes leading to official French engineering qualifications, improving the quality of programmes, and promoting engineering qualifications and the profession in France and abroad. CTI is a full member of the European ENQA, ECA and ENAEE networks. It is listed on the European EQAR register.

HCERES is an independent administrative authority responsible for evaluating or validating the evaluation of all higher education and research institutions. It provides analysis, evaluations and recommendations to support and advise initiatives to improve the quality of higher education and research in France.