

A document on *Best Practice in Engineering Programme Accreditation* was jointly adopted and published in July 2015 by the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAAEE) and the Washington, Sydney and Dublin Accords, the constituent educational agreements within the International Engineering Alliance (IEA).

**This is a significant achievement as it represents the agreement and common understanding of best practice in engineering accreditation by the 30 countries/accreditation agencies involved in the two organisations worldwide. The elements of best practice in the document are those that have been found to ensure best functioning of accreditation systems. Such peer review accreditation systems are in turn major contributors to the development of high quality engineering education.**



European Network for Accreditation of  
Engineering Education



# BEST PRACTICE IN ENGINEERING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

ENAAEE and the IEA Accords are committed to best practice in the accreditation of engineering programmes and have given effect to this commitment through the joint development of this document. It serves both ENAAEE and IEA in their ongoing operations, and is of interest to bodies either forming new agencies or developing accreditation systems to the level required by either EUR-ACE® or the IEA Accords.

A best practice is a technique or methodology that, through experience and reflection, reliably leads to a desired result, superior to those achieved with other means. Acknowledged best practice therefore provides a benchmark for an accreditation system in evaluating programmes.

The *Best Practice in Engineering Programme Accreditation* document contains elements that are both specific to accreditation of engineering programmes and those that are generally applicable in programme accreditation. It is not concerned with institutional review/audit for quality assurance.

The best practice identified is consistent with the applicable sections of the good practice guidelines published by INQAHE and the European Standards and Guidelines of ENQA as applicable to programme accreditation. Best practice in both the IEA Accord Rules and Procedures and the EUR-ACE® Framework Standards and Guidelines are reflected in its compilation.

This brochure is intended only to be a summary of the *Best Practice in Engineering Programme Accreditation* document. To read or download the full document please visit:

[www.enaee.eu/documents/XXXX](http://www.enaee.eu/documents/XXXX) or [www.ieagrements.org/policies-and-procedures.cfm](http://www.ieagrements.org/policies-and-procedures.cfm)

## The document is intended for use as follows:

- Bodies setting up as accreditation agencies, or operating or improving engineering education accreditation systems will be guided by these elements.
- Bodies facilitating recognition of accredited engineering programmes, such as ENAAEE and the IEA Accords, which develop and are guided by best practice in defining, operating and improving policy, processes and accreditation criteria.

## The document does not impact directly on education providers but rather helps to shape the accreditation system that each provider experiences:

- The best practice described assumes particular relationships between the programme providers and the accrediting agency.
- The provider designs and executes a programme to satisfy a stated purpose.
- Execution involves resourcing and conducting a teaching and learning process, including assessment of students.

Programme design is informed by the standards and other accreditation criteria laid down by the accrediting agency. The agency is not involved in the design and delivery of the programme. Once a programme is in operation and producing graduates the accrediting agency evaluates the programme periodically against its standards using its defined processes.

## The document includes the following key sections:

- Glossaries and additional definitions of key terms.
- Background material on best practice in accreditation.
- Best practice for the constitution, scope and governance of an accreditation agency, acknowledging that best practice accreditation systems may be operated by a range of types of bodies.
- Criteria for accreditation in a system operating according to best practice.
- Elements of best practice in the accreditation process itself. The process of accreditation of programmes, including preparation, evaluation, reporting, decision-making and follow up conforms to generally accepted principles, which are outlined in the document.
- Elements relating to the agency's capacity for current operation and long-term sustainability of the accreditation agency and its process.



European Network for Accreditation of  
Engineering Education

## ABOUT ENAAEE

ENAAEE is a network whose members are committed to building confidence in systems of accreditation of engineering degree programmes within Europe and to promoting the implementation of good accreditation practice for engineering education systems in Europe and worldwide.

ENAAEE authorises accreditation agencies (13 agencies in 13 European countries) to award the EUR-ACE® label to accredited engineering degree programmes at Bachelor and Master Degree levels. The EUR-ACE® Framework Standards and Guidelines (EAFSG) define the criteria which apply to accredited engineering degree programmes and to accreditation agencies authorised to award labels.

The agencies which have adopted the Best Practice agreement and are accredited to authorise the EUR-ACE® label are in the following countries:

- |            |                 |                    |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Finland | 7. Portugal     | 12. Turkey         |
| 2. France  | 8. Romania      | 13. United Kingdom |
| 3. Germany | 9. Russia       |                    |
| 4. Ireland | 10. Spain       |                    |
| 5. Italy   | 11. Switzerland |                    |
| 6. Poland  |                 |                    |



## ABOUT IEA

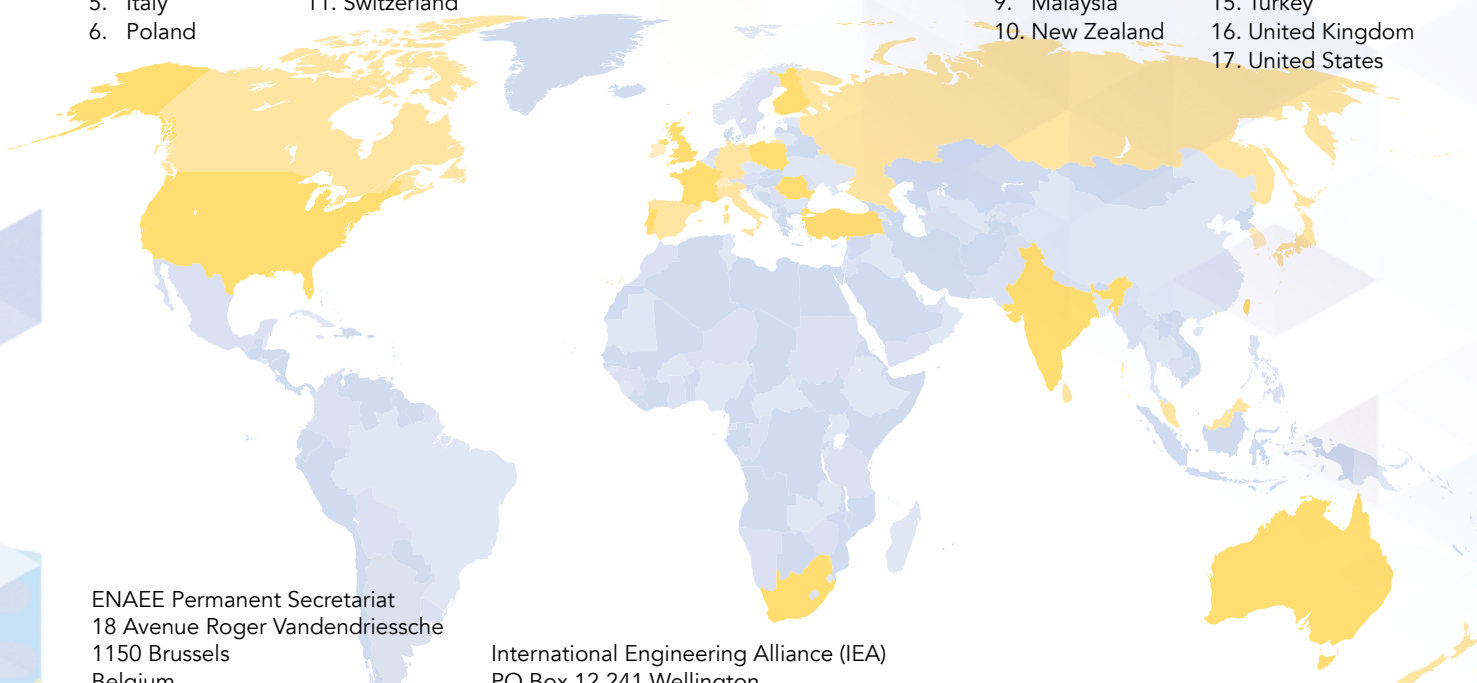
The International Engineering Alliance (IEA) is an organisation which works to advance benchmarking and mobility in the engineering profession. The Washington, Sydney and Dublin Accords are the constituent educational accords within the IEA.

The Accords signatories (totalling 18 accreditation agencies in 17 countries worldwide), are committed to the benchmarking of engineering education standards for engineers, engineering technologists and engineering technicians respectively and to mutual recognition of the accreditation decisions of the signatories, for the following occupational roles:

- Washington Accord: engineering at the professional level;
- Sydney Accord: engineering technology practice within the engineering team;
- Dublin Accord: engineering technician practice within the engineering team.

The Best Practice agreement has been adopted by the Accords signatory accreditation agencies from the following countries:

- |                    |                 |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Australia       | 5. India        | 11. Russia         |
| 2. Canada          | 6. Ireland      | 12. Singapore      |
| 3. Chinese Taipei  | 7. Japan        | 13. South Africa   |
| 4. Hong Kong China | 8. Korea        | 14. Sri Lanka      |
|                    | 9. Malaysia     | 15. Turkey         |
|                    | 10. New Zealand | 16. United Kingdom |
|                    |                 | 17. United States  |



ENAAEE Permanent Secretariat  
18 Avenue Roger Vandendriessche  
1150 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: + 32 2 639 03 93  
Fax: + 32 2 639 03 99  
Email: [info@eur-ace.eu](mailto:info@eur-ace.eu)  
[www.enaee.eu](http://www.enaee.eu)  
[www.enaee.eu/documents/XXXX](http://www.enaee.eu/documents/XXXX)

International Engineering Alliance (IEA)  
PO Box 12 241 Wellington  
New Zealand  
Tel: +64 04 473 2022  
Email: [secretariat@ieagrements.org](mailto:secretariat@ieagrements.org)  
[www.ieagrements.org](http://www.ieagrements.org)  
[www.ieagrements.org/policies-and-procedures.cfm](http://www.ieagrements.org/policies-and-procedures.cfm)

Related Links:  
[www.inqaahe.org](http://www.inqaahe.org)  
[www.enqa.eu/index.php/home/esg/](http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/home/esg/)

