



ENAAE- 10 years of building trust

On the 8th of February 2006, ENAAE (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education, www.enaae.eu) was established by 8 founding institutions. This was the result of 6 years of preparatory works, rooted in the Bologna process and supported by the Socrates and Tempus programmes of the European Commission.

On the 23rd of November 2016, a conference was held in Rome, jointly with ENAAE Administrative Council and General Assembly meetings, to *celebrate the ENAAE 10th anniversary*. In 10 years, ENAAE has developed significant experience in sharing common agreed sets of standards and tools for accreditation of engineering degree programmes in Europe and in an increasing number of countries. During this period, efforts were made to build a common framework to upgrade the quality of engineering education while coping with the diversity of the national education systems and of professional organizations. By the end of 2016, 13 authorized agencies had awarded EUR-ACE labels to about 2,500 programmes in 300 universities in 32 countries.

The conference gathered about 60 members of ENAAE and representatives of European partners and stakeholders. The first session “*10 years of trust building*” was aimed at taking stock of ENAAE activities, with the testimony of a university (KU Leuven) which had recently undergone accreditation of its engineering degree programmes and of an agency (MUDEK, Turkey) which had been authorized to award the EUR-ACE label to its accredited engineering degree programmes.

The second session “*A look forward*” considered future issues for engineering education with talks by representatives of the European Commission and of the International Engineering Alliance. The Secretary General of the European Council of Engineering Chambers presented the main outputs of the ECTF project (European Common Training Framework) supported by the European Commission, which proposes the use of the EUR-ACE Framework Standards and Guidelines to define the education element of engineering formation in Europe. The Conference closed with a round table where the Chairs of FEANI (European Federation of National Engineering Associations) and of SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) debated with a representative of industry.

Preliminary discussions were held between ENAAE, FEANI and SEFI on the establishment of a platform for the engineering profession, to be called “Engineers Europe”. It is hoped that Engineers Europe will become a platform for a unified voice on relevant matters for the engineering profession in Europe.

As an overall conclusion of the meeting, it appears that the EUR-ACE Framework Standards and Guidelines have proven their reliability and their adaptability as quality standards for the diversity of national contexts for engineering education in Europe. Their generic character makes them most appropriate as the academic core for professional frameworks (as the ECTF) and for national quality assurance systems in engineering education.