



# ECQA Guide

Supported by



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## Proceedings

The papers in this book comprise the guidelines of the European Certification and Qualification Association to set up, maintain and manage the ECQA.

## EQN

The former EU Leonardo Networking project EQN (European Quality Network, 2005 - 2007) has developed quality rules for educational programmes to be accepted. Quality rules relate to skills architecture, course syllabus, test questions and certification rules for exam bodies, training organizations and trainers.

EQN led to the foundation of the ECQA (European Certification and Qualification Association) which as an independent not for profit association is responsible for the implementation of the quality rules.

In the current **EU project EU Certificates Campus** (2008 – 2010) the existing infrastructure has been extended to include online training facilities for a cluster (the cluster covers areas of IT and services, engineering, and manufacturing) of certified professions.

The current system provides a computer supported infrastructure for online self assessment, online training and test (with automated corrections) for a pool of professions. ECQA targets the EQF (European Qualification Framework) level 4 and 5 courses to continuously train people at the work place in the practical application of skills in an industry environment and to transfer the skills to further industry areas.

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The EU Cert Campus Partnership – [www.eu-certificates.org](http://www.eu-certificates.org)

## ***Welcome to ECQA by the Key Note Ray Coughlan***



**Dr Ray Coughlan**  
**Key Supporter**

Ray Coughlan originally graduated from University College Cork with a Masters Degree in Control Systems, a subject in which he subsequently lectured at the University and later in the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), where he also headed up the Institute's Electronic Engineering programmes.

In 1996, he established the DEIS Centre for Innovation in Education at CIT and was appointed Head when DEIS became an Academic Department of the Institute in 2000.

DEIS, the Department of Education Development, has a mission to innovate in education to meet the needs of a diverse range of student groups. Under Ray' leadership the department has run a vast range of research projects in areas such as e-learning and work-based learning. In recent years Ray has been instrumental in the development of a range of workplace and higher education partnerships which have in turn given rise to a number of new accredited programmes.

## ***Welcome to ECQA by the Key Note Stephan Goericke***



**Stephan Goericke**  
**Key Supporter**

As the Director of the International Software Quality Institute (iSQI), I am proud to be a key note at the PLATO conference in Budapest.

We need more close cooperations between science, research and business for enhancing the transfer of technology into practice. That is why we organize such conferences. They are networks that link potentials which are distributed over various locations and players and focus' on performance, clearly defined targets and competences.

These close cooperations - on the other hand - need standards and standardization since multinational participation in projects involves different levels of knowledge and qualification. Additionally, within the cross-sectional business area of IT it is very difficult to keep with the pace of innovation.

Therefore people need to educate themselves on their job and that is why iSQI runs certification programs such as ISTQB Certified Tester, iSQI Certified Professional for Software Architecture, iSQI Certified Professional for Project Management, iNTCCM Certified Configuration Manager and iNTACS, the international ISO/IEC 15504 Assessor Certification Scheme. From this year on, our portfolio includes schemes for IT-Security Management, Secure Software Development as well as E-Health Management. You will hear more about these certifications at future conferences.

## ***Welcome Address by the EuroSPI Coordinator and EU Certificates campus Technical Director***



**Dr Richard Messnarz**  
**ISCN**

EQN (European Quality Network) has developed quality rules for educational programmes to be accepted. Quality rules relate to skills architecture, course syllabus, test questions and certification rules for exam bodies, training organizations and trainers. EQN provides a computer supported infrastructure for online self-assessment, online training and test (with automated corrections) for a pool of professions. EQN targets the EQF (European Qualification Framework) level 4 and 5 courses to continuously train people at the work place in the practical application of skills in an industry environment and to transfer the skills to further industry areas. EQN is founding the EU Certificates Association and the general assembly takes place on 16th October 2007 at the conference.

PLATO platforms and results are used within the EuroSPI network for collaborative projects in research and industry. With the support of the E-Learning EU project PLATO (2005 – 2007) an infrastructure for online learning has been set up for 15 European professions related with process improvement.

EuroSPI (European Software Process Improvement and Innovation) is a partnership of large Scandinavian research companies and experience networks (SINTEF, DELTA, STTF), the ASQF as a large German quality association, the American Society for Quality, and ISCN as the co-coordinating partner. EuroSPI collaborates with a large number of SPINs (Software Process Improvement Network) in Europe.

EuroSPI conferences present and discuss results from software process improvement (SPI) projects in industry and research, focusing on the benefits gained and the criteria for success. Leading European universities, research centers, and industry are contributing to and participating in this event. In 2009 there was the 16th of a series of conferences to which international researchers contribute their lessons learned and share their knowledge as they work towards the next higher level of software management professionalism.

See also [www.eurospi.net](http://www.eurospi.net), [www.eu-certificates.org](http://www.eu-certificates.org)

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