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Annual Seminar of Baltic Quality Assurance Agencies

On September 7-8, 2017 annual seminar of the Baltic Quality Assurance Agencies was held in Estonia. The aim of the seminar was to strengthen cooperation between Baltic countries in the field of the higher education quality assurance.

Baltic States Agencies: the Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA, Estonia), the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC, Lithuania), the Academic Information Centre (AIC, Latvia) and the State Education Quality Service participated at the annual seminar. The seminar for Baltic Quality Assurance Agencies is organised every year with an aim to share experience and discuss challenges and trends.

During the seminar, diverse topics were covered, including such as: effectiveness and the results of the quality assurance procedures, self-assessment reports by the Higher Education Institutions how to encourage Higher Education Institutions trust in quality assurance agencies, and the procedure of expert selection. The representatives of the agencies have also introduced with the current events and recent changes in the field of the higher education and vocational education and training. Although the common approach to the assessment process is similar, each of the agencies is in the different stage of the development, and, thus, were able to exchange with the best practices that are effective in a given context, also share valuable advice regarding further activities that neighbouring agencies could implement.

By the strengthening of the internal quality cultures within Higher Education Institutions, the role of external quality assurance agencies is changing, and for the agencies it was indicated as a challenge to maintain a constructive dialogue. During the seminar Baltic countries agreed to continue exchanging experiences and cooperation in joint projects so that all agencies are able to follow the latest trends and be abreast of new developments. In autumn 2018, the annual seminar will be held in Latvia.