



E-accreditation in Europe

The Special Interest Group in Distance Learning Accreditation in Europe (SIG-DLAE) is a project of the e-learning programme. Its objective is to define and test an e-accreditation process and criteria. The testing of a first version of the process and criteria is under way.

The partners involved are institutions from the European higher education area (ENPC, KTH, and Politecnico di Milano) or private companies (MMB and Altran SDB) interested in e-learning and the business of accreditation.

Accreditation is a fair, independent process based on public criteria. Accreditation is a guarantee for the students, the labour market and other higher education institution. Accreditation leads to greater mobility of students and staff. Accreditation bodies are accountable to students, companies on behalf of governments and the European Union.

Most accreditation bodies are relying on self assessment, guided peer review, assessment of student's achievements, evaluation of staff and faculty. E-accreditation is doing the same with specific criteria like the qualification of the faculty to e-learning.

Current trends in education shows that e-learning will help the development of life long learning and that e-learning will merge with face to face teaching in various forms of blended learning.

E-accreditation will provide to e-learning the same advantages as accreditation to teaching.

The European Ministers for Education, during their Bergen meeting, should consider the possibility to establish a European Foundation for e-accreditation in higher education at the bachelor and master levels.

This foundation should establish common processes, criteria and guidelines on the basis of on going European projects. A European database of experts, to be involved in the peer review process, should also be established.

National accreditation bodies will be accredited by this European Foundation for e-accreditation.

The SIG-DLAE project