NEWSFLASH

We are happy to announce that our international project team has won the “Special Award – The best innovative project (BPM Summit EE 2013)” for our HEI-UP project (Improvement of BPM in Higher Education Institutions, www.bpm-hei.eu).

The award was granted by the conference expert committee (KPC-Group - independent representative of Gartner, IAMCP and CIO Council).

The award means our 2-year work is recognized by experts in this field. This recognition will surely give our project another boost - in the terms of the dissemination and attracting future attendees to the course we've developed.

HEI-UP Consortium: Slovenia (BICERO Ltd, DOBA Faculty), Bulgaria (AUBG), Lithuania (WLBC), Poland (SZSWBC) and Austria (IMC FH Krems, ISCN)

The BPM Eastern Europe Summit 2013 is a conference for researchers and practitioners in the field of Business Process Management (BPM) in Eastern Europe. The conference was attended by representatives of leading BPM solution providers, consulting firms, main players in the industry - suppliers and users - and analysts from various companies involved in BPM programs.

Text: Tomislav Rozman, BICERO, Business Informatics Center Rozman Ltd.

European Commission is looking for Independent Experts

The Commission has launched recently a call for experts to register their profile in order to assist in tasks concerning the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation, such as evaluation of proposals and monitoring of projects. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) also invites experts to register their profile to assist in tasks regarding the Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe and EU Aid Volunteers programmes. Submit your online application to become one of the independent experts!

...more: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html

Text: Andrea Fenz, Skills International

SAVE THE DATE: ECQA Days 2014

The ECQA Days 2014 will take place from 25 - 27 June in Luxembourg as an accompanying event of the 21st EuroSPI Conference.

More information will be announced soon!
Europe 2020 is Europe’s growth strategy based on three priorities:

1. Smart growth: knowledge and innovation
2. Sustainable growth: resource efficiency and the green economy
3. Inclusive growth: employment, social and territorial cohesion

Actually there are seven flagship initiatives to implement the Europe 2020 strategy focusing on innovation, education, new skills for new jobs, the digital society, climate and resource efficiency, competitiveness and the fight against poverty.

...more: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/index_en.htm

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union as one of the Europe 2020 flagships. With a budget of about € 70 billion budget for the EU period 2014-2020, the EU’s new programme for research and innovation will combine research and innovation funding currently covered by the FP7 (Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development), the CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme) and the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology).

H2020 is based on three pillars:

1. Excellent Science; 2. Industrial Leadership; 3. Societal Challenges

Horizon 2020 has a strong focus on all phases of the innovation cycle. In addition, there is a new SME Instrument, Fast Track to Innovation, Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions – Cofund (PPI) and various other Cofunds. It is also new that co-funding by EU will be up to 100%!

Evaluation criteria for project proposals are under three headings: excellence, impact and implementation. For innovation actions, the scores for impact will be weighted by the factor 1,5. First Call for proposals in H2020 are planned to start on 11th December 2013!


Erasmus+ is the new programme proposed by the European Commission for education, training, youth and sport with a budget of €14.7 billion for the period 2014-2020. There are three main types of action proposed:

- Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals
- Key Action 2: Co-operation for Innovation and Good Practices
- Key Action 3: Support for Policy Reform

Furthermore, Erasmus Plus will offer two completely new elements:

1. Loan guarantee scheme for Master’s degree students
2. Knowledge alliances & Sector skills alliances

Here are the proposed indicative deadlines (not fixed!)

- Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals, 17.3.2014
- Key Action 2: Co-operation for Innovation and Good Practices, 30.4.2014

...more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus
The EU Cohesion Policy for the period 2014-2020 is also concentrating on the Europe 2020 strategic priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Cohesion Policy has now five Funds (instead of the three in the Structural Funds 2007-2013) with structural aims covered by the Commission’s Common Strategic Framework, namely the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund (CF), European Social Fund (ESF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

One third of the EU's 2014-2020 budget will be directed towards the EU's new Cohesion Policy. The €325 billion allocated to Europe’s Member States, their regions and cities will be focussed on key priorities such as combating youth unemployment, innovation, SMEs and the low carbon economy.

ECQA Certified EU Project Manager

The ECQA Certified EU Project Manager is a very successful unified qualification and certification scheme for EU Project Managers. The training course integrates practical experience and knowledge from the past 10 years. So far more than 750 certificates have been issued for ECQA Certified EU Project Managers. Actually the skill card, training course material, e-Learning platform and examination test question pool are updated by the Job Role Committee to respond to the new EU programming period 2014-2020.

For more information contact:
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Job Role Committee Leader ECQA Certified EU Project Manager
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ECQA president Prof. (FH) Mag. Michael Reiner at the Shanghai Software Trade Forum, from 17.-18. October 2013

On invitation by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, ECQA president Michael Reiner presented a keynote lecture, titled “Combining knowledge alliances and networking power with international certifications”. This enabled the ECQA to demonstrate the possibilities of Europe wide certificates as a best practise to a large audience and to show possible connections for ECQA on the Chinese market. The invitation included a meeting with the vice mayor of Shanghai Municipal Government and meetings with a delegation of SOBUS (Software Offshore Business Union of Shanghai).

Text: Michael Reiner, ECQA
The PAC project is an innovative approach that answers the demands of the European Higher Education Area (EHE) by promoting the integration of industrial real world requirements and labor market into the engineering educational curriculum. This is in order to prepare qualified professional engineering profiles based on technical skills that are relevant to current and future labor market needs.

The PAC project developed an adaptive to business and employment needs curriculum on master degree level, applying performance support systems concept and principles for education in performance-centered content management learning system. There is a need of new skills requirements of many jobs not only in terms of formal qualifications but also in terms of detailed skills and competences. Identification of new demands for qualifications and qualifications profile development will input the business and employment into curriculum development and course design, to answer to the need of practically oriented/occupationally specific and designed for participants to acquire the practical skills, and know-how needed for employment in a particular occupation programmes - the successful completion of which usually provides the participants with a labour-market relevant qualification. In the PAC project three skill sets were defined compliant with the ECQA framework:

- Control System Engineer
- Industry Controller SW Application Developer
- IT System Support Engineer

All three skills are currently taught at the Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ from Bulgaria and Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia from Spain. Students are doing their internship at one of the following companies:

- INDEX-6® Ltd. – Bulgaria
- TEPOLSoftS Ltd. - Bulgaria
- Adaptive Predictive Expert Control ADEX, S. L. - Spain

After their study and the internship, students will have the possibility to obtain an ECQA certificate. ISCN is supporting the examination and certification procedures.

The interplay and cross-fertilization of Higher Education (HE) and focused training in the work context has for long been a key objective in the development of a coherent and effective lifelong learning approach at the European level. In the context of HE, the Bologna process has transformed the landscape of trans-national mobility and cooperation. In the context of lifelong learning, different programmes have developed innovation and frameworks as the EQF have fostered trans-national recognition of qualifications. The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) enables a better compatibility between the different vocational education and training (VET) systems in place across Europe and their qualifications. In HEI, the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) plays an analogous role, and both ECVET and ECTS are based on the same foundations. These achievements have resulted in a framework enabling the interplay of lifelong learning and HE.

However, the governance and strategic directions in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) institutions are in most cases not effectively partnering with the relevant sectors of industry or doing so only for consulting in the design and evaluation of the curricula. This often results in a mismatch of the needs of enterprises and industry and the programs offered by HEI. Further, the systems for assessment in HEI are often very different from approaches to certification in industry. This points out to a need of devising and experimenting with new models for HEI and enterprise collaboration in aligning and even intertwining their educational and training offerings that consider the standards and practices used in both contexts and allow transferring credits and qualifications between the two realms. This needs to be done also respecting the business models and quality approaches used in training for industry needs together with the attainment of the competencies required in HE degrees.

Text: Damjan Ekert, ISCN
ECQA Days 2013 - Let’s join our strengths together

The ECQA Days took place from Sept. 26th - 27th in Cannes, France. Participants from several different European countries joined to spend two great conference days with us. The program was a great success and offered valuable insights into current projects in various fields.

The conference day started off with a keynote from Prof. Alain Bernard, PhD, followed by presentations of Dr. Richard Messnarz, Dr. Dick Theisens, Dr. Andreas Riel, Darragh Coakley, Dr. Kerstin Siakas, Errikos Siakas, Dr. Nathalie Gormezano, Dr. Tomislav Rozman, Prof. Frieda Steurs and further keynotes of Dr. Gabriele Sauberer and Dr. Christian Kreiner.

The workshop day continued with another very interesting keynote from Dir. Dick Theisens and continued with interactive workshops including impulse notes from Dr. Christian Kreiner, Risto Nevalainen, Dr. Dániel Pálosi, Ricardo Colomo-Palacios, PhD, Prof. (FH) Michael Reiner, Jørn Johansen and Dr. Gabriele Sauberer.

We greatly appreciate every participant’s effort to travel to Cannes and to spend two great days of exchanging ideas and networking with us.

We want to thank all keynote speakers for their support:

- Prof. Alain Bernard, PhD: ECQA Success Story in Integrated Engineering - Integrated Design Engineer
- Dr. Gabriele Sauberer: Quality through Terminology Management in Automotive and Aviation Industry
- Dr. Christian Kreiner & Dr. Andreas Riel: Knowledge Alliance for Training, Quality, and Excellence in Automotive (AQUA) - Integration of ECQA Certified Lean Six Sigma, Functional Safety Manager with INTACS Certified Automotive SPICE(r) Assessor
- Dir. Dick Theisens: Lean Six Sigma Academy for Europe - Moving towards Excellence
Furthermore, we want to thank all speakers for further valuable presentations and workshops:

- Dr. Christian Kreiner: AQUA – Knowledge Alliance for Training Quality and Excellence in Automotive
- Dr. Richard Messnarz & Dr. Christian Kreiner: Experiences with the Implementation of Functional Safety Manager Training and Certificates (SaFEu)
- Dir. Dick Theisens: Lean Six Sigma for Health Care (LSSH)
- Dr. Andreas Riel: Idea 2 Enterprise - Researcher Entrepreneur Qualification in ECQA & Presentation of a habil. Work at Grenoble INP based on Innovation Manager
- Dr. Gabriele Sauberer: Combining Innovation and Diversity Management
- Darragh Coakley: Social Media Expert Skills, Cork Institute of Technology, Ireland
- Dr. Kerstin Siakas & Errikos Siakas: Addressing the lack of Valorisation skills for the Valorisation of project results
- Dr. Nathalie Gormezano: Transnational Certification of Language Skills (TransCERT)
- Dr. Tomislav Rozman: Improving Business Process Management in Educational Institutions
- Prof. Frieda Steurs: ECQA Certified Terminology Manager & ECQA Certification of Language Skills in the Legal Domain (QUALETRA)
- Dr. Christian Kreiner: Implementation of Functional Safety Standards in Systems and SW Design
- Dr. Dániel Pálósi: Using Social Media in Business and Networking
- Ricardo Colomo-Palacios, PhD: Using Social Media Networker Skills in Europe (SIMS)
- Prof. (FH) Michael Reiner: Using Social Media Networks for Business Success
- Jørn Johansen: SPI Manager Experiences in Scandinavia
- Dr. Gabriele Sauberer: Experiences with Terminology Management in Automotive and Aviation

Text: Nicole Handschuh, ECQA, events@ecqa.org


ECQA president Prof. (FH) Mag. Michael Reiner held a Keynote at the SIM 2013 conference in Timisoara about the ECQA and their viewpoint on Management and Leadership, especially with the focus on possibilities to prove Management and Leadership competences with Europe wide certificates and the challenge in this task.

Text: Michael Reiner, ECQA
TransCert

Originating from an initiative of DGT to shape a project on the trans-European voluntary certification of translators, a consortium led by the University of Vienna submitted a project proposal called TransCert in February 2012, in response to a call for proposals by the European Union in its Life-Long Learning Programme (LLP). The project was accepted for funding and will start on the 1st of January, 2013 and will last for 2 years.

While the EMT network is able to provide innovative and high-quality translator education at a tertiary level, it is imperative to establish certification that makes sure that life-long learning is taken seriously and that the highest standards of quality and professional relevance are maintained. This main objective is addressed by the TransCert project by aiming at a transnational certification system that is built on best practice at national and institutional levels. The innovative approach of the TransCert certification scheme combines best practices in translation quality assurance (e.g. EN 15038), industry certification at European level (e.g. ECQA) and international standards in personal certification (e.g. ISO 17024 - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons).

The consortium including its international advisory board that will carry out the project consists of leading representatives of the three important types of stakeholders or pillars of this area: university programmes (EMT members such as University of Vienna, LEUVEN Antwerp, ISIT Paris), translation companies (e.g. Intertext and EUATC) and translators' associations, representing individual translators, as well as other related institutions and networks (FIT, SFT, GALA, EULITA, etc). The involvement of all stakeholders in the field will guarantee the quality and sustainability of transnational voluntary certification for translators, being open also to non-European and non-EU countries all over the world.

As TransCert is designed as a two-year project it will not be able to satisfy all the needs and concerns related to such an ambitious certification scheme. Therefore the first two years will be dedicated to the development of a first trial certification scheme based on the following Work Packages and criteria.

Eligibility for certification will be a recognized qualification, preferably a translation degree earned at an institution of higher learning. After defining the skills a translator is required to have and analysing the real training needs by comparing existing translator training programs, market needs and the specific skills of translators working in the field (WP 4), the TransCert Consortium will create a training structure and a modular training programme suitable for five-day blended-learning training sessions devoted to those skills that appear to be underdeveloped in average translators (WP5). A learning portal will be designed and training materials will be converted to the format appropriate for Moodle. As the project is designed to prove the feasibility of a translator certification scheme, it will initially provide training material only in German, French and English. Therefore, within WP 5 only the English version of the training package will be available on the portal. In order to ensure effectiveness, only the final version will be translated into German and French. WP 6 will be aimed at testing the TransCert trial training programme and getting feedback on it from potential users in the market, with a view to improving the programme. The last step (WP 7) will be the finalisation of the training. Within this WP the final version of the training material will be translated from English into German and French and uploaded to the eLearning portal (WP4). The exam pool will be uploaded into the exam system. Train-the-trainer Events (WP 8) will complete the TransCert project.

This two-year planning does not preclude any future spin-off projects of TransCert dedicated to important aspects of any translator certification scheme. More specifically, spin-offs should be targeted at 1) non-degree holders, 2) various domains (more advanced) and 3) LLD (languages of lesser diffusion) in order to provide a certification scheme catering to the needs of the international translators' community.

Text: Damjan Ekert, ISCN
ECQA Certified EU Project Manager

- Special edition Research and Innovation Proposal Development in Vienna, Austria
  15 - 18 January 2014
- Special edition Project Development and Proposal Writing in Dubrovnik, Croatia
  4 - 7 February 2014
- Research and Innovation Project Development in Brussels, Belgium
  19 - 21 February 2014
- Special edition Proposal Writing in Vienna, Austria
  5 - 8 March 2014

ECQA Certified Business Process Manager

- ECQA Certified Business Process Manager - ONLINE Training (Level: Beginner)
  please find more info below

ECQA Certified Terminology Manager

- ECQA Certified Terminology Manager - Basic
  Online course: Dec 2013 (English or German)
  Online course: Dec 2013 - Jan 2014 (French)
  Online course: Apr - Jun 2014 (English or German)
- ECQA Certified Terminology Manager - Advanced
  Online course: Feb - Apr 2014 (English or German)
- ECQA Certified Terminology Manager - Basic
  Face-to-face training in Hungary: 30 September - 4 October 2013 (German)

You can find the trainings schedule on the ECQA Homepage: www.ecqa.org

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ECQA Certified Business Process Manager - ONLINE Training

Are you process analyst, quality manager, or simply eager to learn about BPM? Then read on.

The online course will start on 6. Feb. 2014 and will last 5 weeks.

The training includes:

- 3 interactive webinars
- participation in online e-learning environment (Moodle)
  - sharing knowledge among participants
- interaction with tutors
- access to the learning materials (PDFs - presentations, student notes, articles, video tutorials)

You will learn how to:

- establish process oriented organization
- manage a BPM project
- model a process using BPMN 2.0
- use various BPM tools
- document a process according to ISO 9001:2008
- define roles, activities, goals, KPIs
- choose BPM platform
- motivate people to participate in BPM projects

After this training, you’ll be able to attend the exam and receive ECQA Certified Business Process Manager certificate.
Thank you very much for your support and great cooperation in 2013. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas holiday and a happy new year!

Your ECQA Team