



Press Release – 6 October 2011

Professor Lothar Zechlin becomes new chair of the EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme

EUA is pleased to announce that Professor Lothar Zechlin from Germany is the new Chair of EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP).

The IEP is an independent EUA membership service that aims to evaluate universities in the context of their specific goals, based on self-evaluation and site visits by IEP teams. To date, over 260 institutions have taken part in the programme to improve their quality assurance, internal governance and autonomy. The IEP is governed by an independent Steering Committee that is responsible for the development, operation and monitoring of the programme.

Professor Zechlin, who takes over as Chair of the Steering Committee from Professor Eric Froment, has vast international experience in higher education. He was Founding Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen (2003-2008) and has also served as the Rector of the University of Graz in Austria (1999–2003) and as President of the School of Economics and Politics Hamburg (1992 – 1999). Since 2008 he has held the chair of Public Law at the Institute for Political Science of the University of Duisburg-Essen and has been a member of the University Council of the Justus Liebig University of Gießen. He has been part of the IEP Steering Committee since 2004 and has participated in university evaluations in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany and France.

Professor Zechlin commented: "As universities are becoming more autonomous, they are increasingly taking responsibility for quality and quality assurance. The IEP is an excellent tool for enhancing institutional quality management, and that is why I am delighted to take up this position." The next round of IEP evaluations (for the 2011/12 academic year) begins in October 2011 and will include five new institutions from Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Turkey and Spain, as well as six follow-up evaluations in Turkey and Portugal.

Professor Zechlin will be chairing the Steering Committee for four years. To find out more about the IEP please visit the IEP website: www.eua.be/iep

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The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

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