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INTERNATIONAL

Hcéres hosts the ECA winter seminar

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From the 18th to the 20th of December, Hcéres hosted the winter seminar of the ECA (European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education) network of agencies, followed by an ECA training course on evaluating the quality of internationalisation. The event, which brought together almost 40 participants, was a fitting end to a particularly rich year for international cooperation at Hcéres!

After hosting the Quality Audit Network last June, Hcéres welcomed twelve European agencies that are members of the ECA network (European Consortium for accreditation in Higher Education). This network, of which Hcéres has been a member for around ten years, is involved in European projects and promotes innovative practices in quality assurance, particularly in internationalisation, for example by awarding the CeQuint (Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation) label. The internationalisation of evaluation agencies was the theme chosen for this winter seminar.



Participants to the ECA Winter seminar representing : AQAS(Germany), ACSUG (Spain), Hcéres (France), UKÄ (Sweden), ARACIS (Romania), PKA (Poland), NVAO (Netherlands), ZEvA (Germany), CTI (France), AHPGS (Germany), NVAO Flanders, SQAA (Slovenia), MFHEA (Malta)

The workshops, co-hosted by the Europe and International Department, took a practical approach to sharing

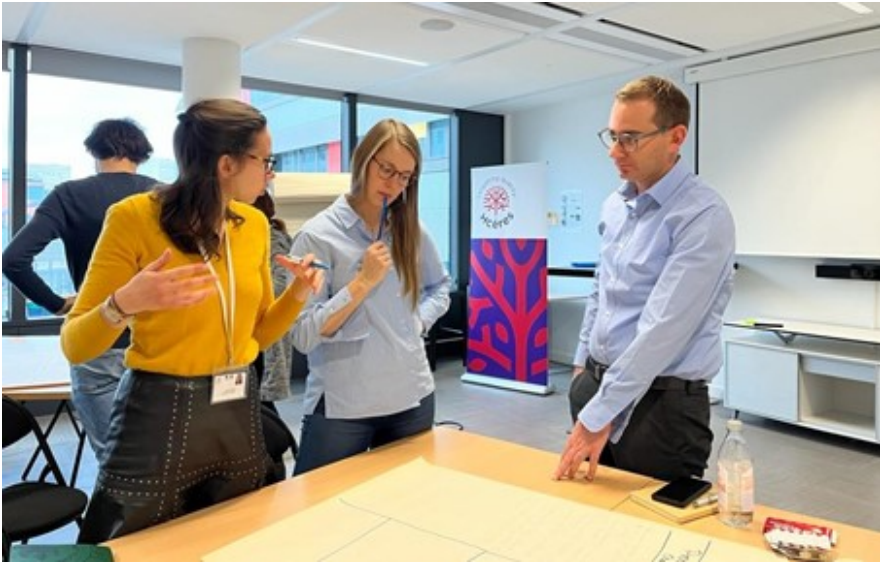
experience, enabling the agencies to reflect on the impact of international activities on the continuous improvement of evaluation practices and methods at national level. Among the subjects discussed, the role of internal affairs in the internal structure of the agencies and the effectiveness of different types of peer-learning activities, such as job shadowing, were seen as important levers. A specific session was devoted to the recruitment of international experts, a major focus of the internationalisation of evaluation agencies.

Finally, numerous tools have been developed in recent years to support the internationalisation of higher education institutions: some focusing on a specific aspect such as welcoming international students, with the Bienvenue en France label developed by Campus France, and others developed by the institutions themselves, such as the “Recipes for Internationalisation” of the European Universities alliance UNITA. The managers of these projects, who took part in a round-table discussion at the seminar, spoke of the complementarity of the labels with regular evaluation procedures and their added value.



Stéphanie Beauchene (Campus France), Laurence Vignollet (Savoie Mont blanc University), Solange Pisarz (CTI), Prof. dr. Ainhoa Uribe Otolara (CEU San Pablo University)

The following two days were devoted to a training course delivered by ECA about evaluating the quality of internationalisation, through the CeQuint label, which rewards excellence in internationalisation at institutional or programme level. One of the original features of the CeQuint framework is that it focuses on the integration of an international and intercultural dimension into the learning outcomes. Equal attention is paid to internationalisation 'at home' and to the mobility of students and academics.



Sophie Guillet (Hcéres) and colleagues from the German agency AHPGS and the Malta Further & Higher Education Authority in a workshop session during the CeQuint training.