

<b>Subject</b>	External Quality Assurance
<b>Module</b>	Networks Of External Quality Agencies
<b>Topic</b>	3.6 Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN)

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## Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Creation of Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN)
3. Discussion
4. Summary

### 1. Introduction



This topic discusses creation of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEEN). The discussion brings out an overlap of networks, not only between the regional networks and INQAAHE, but also between regional networks themselves, such as CEEN and ENQA. It will be clear, however, that an overlap is not necessarily a conflict.

#### **Objectives: Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN)**

Upon completion of this topic, you should be able to

- describe the rationale behind the establishment of CEEN

### 2. Creation of Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN)

In 2000, the region of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, formerly in the Soviet sphere, was (or would soon be) within the scope of ENQA. However, their common heritage and characteristics strongly suggested the benefits of a regional network, and CEEN was formed as a 'Regional Subnetwork of INQAAHE' in November of 2000 in Budapest. The Network was succeeded by the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEEN) in October, 2002. The CEE Network is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation.

Membership is open to agencies which are recognised as national or regional higher education QA agencies by the lawful authorities in their respective CEE country, and which operate on a non-profit and non-commercial basis.

The creation of CEEN in parallel with the emergence of ENQA begins to demonstrate the potential for overlapping networks at the regional and sub-regional levels. However, what some regard as overlap may not indicate complementary roles rather than conflict. It is inevitable that blocs will be formed as long as higher education systems retain distinct national and cultural identities. Other 'sub-regional networks' include the Norse network within the ENQA area, and the emerging ASEAN network within the Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) area.

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### **3. Discussion**

#### **Discussion: Overlap of Networks**

Networks have been created within networks (e.g., ASEAN QA Network within APQN). What are the cultural, political, and social rationales for creating these sub-networks?

### **4. Summary**

This topic covered the following main points:

- The CEE Network is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation, formally established in October of 2002 in Vienna. CEEN was originally set up as a 'Regional Subnetwork of INQAAHE'.
- Membership in CEEN is open to recognised agencies which operate on a non-profit and non-commercial basis.
- The creation of CEEN illustrates how a more specific area network may exist with a more general regional regional network, such as ENQA and then INQAAHE. Overlap is not necessarily conflict, but may simply indicate the existence of cultural, political, and social blocs within a larger region. Also, much depends on how a region is defined, either by national boundaries or larger geographical units.