



## **COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL CENTER OF PUBLIC ACCREDITATION (NCPA) AND THE ESTONIAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY AGENCY (EKKA)**

In Yoshkar-Ola and Tallinn, June 2012

The National Center of Public Accreditation, autonomous non-commercial organisation (hereafter referred to as NCPA), Legal code 1101200000021, with headquarters in Yoshkar-Ola, Russia, 206-A Volkov str., 424000, represented by director Vladimir Navodnov, and

The Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (hereafter referred to as EKKA), Foundation Archimedes, Legal Code 80011561, with headquarters in Tallinn, Estonia, L. Koidula 13a, 10125, represented by director Heli Mattisen (who is acting in accordance with the authorisation granted by the directive no 1-5/121 of the management board),

Recognizing the critical importance of international cooperation for enhancing the quality of higher education,

Taking into consideration recent trends and developments in higher education in Europe and worldwide,

Allowing for experience of cooperation between international recognized quality assurance institutions,

Desirous to foster their current relations in the field of quality assurance in higher education and to promote the culture of quality,

Desirous to mutually respect and to benefit from this cooperation,

Have chosen to set up this Cooperation Agreement (hereafter referred to as Agreement).

1. For this purpose, the parties agree:

1) to exchange non-confidential policy documents and operational information and expertise as and when appropriate;

2) to provide developmental opportunities for staff of both parties as and when appropriate;

3) to conduct nominations of experts. To propose the list of experts/ specialists of both parties to strengthen the international dimension of institutional audits and/or accreditations, program accreditations and special-purpose reviews as and when appropriate;

4) to collaborate in research on quality assurance related issues of mutual benefit as and when appropriate;

5) to cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities of mutual benefit as and when appropriate.

2. Both contracting parties shall inform each other about each planned friendly visit of its authorized representatives at least 10 working days before the visit starts.

3. Both contracting parties have the right to decide separately on each request of the other contracting party if it is able and willing to provide the requested data.

4. Both contracting parties shall nominate the authorized persons for the communication. The contracting parties shall inform each other about the changes of appointed persons in writing form during the reasonable time.

5. The realization of the Agreement does not establish any mutual financial obligations between the contracting parties.

6. The Agreement shall enter into the force upon its signature by both contracting parties.

7. The Agreement is open-ended. Any contracting party may terminate this Agreement having notified the other contracting party in writing with a notice period of three months.

8. Any modification to this Agreement shall require an amendment in writing between both contracting parties duly signed by the authorized representatives of EKKA and of NCPA.

9. The Agreement is compacted in two exemplars of the same legal power and is drawn in English.

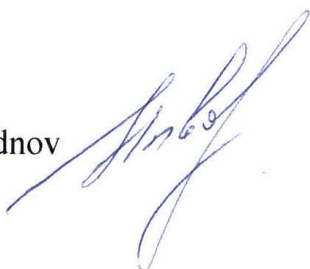
10. The contracting parties agree to formulate all written documents concerning their cooperation in English.

In witness thereof, the present agreement is signed and accepted in the aforementioned place and date.

On behalf of The National Center of  
Public Accreditation, NCPA

On behalf of The Estonian Higher  
Education Quality Agency, EKKA

Director  
Vladimir Navodnov



Director  
Heli Mattisen

