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# What is new about ICA?

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Presentation to ELLS

October 26, 2006, SGGW, Warsaw



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# **ICA's new name**

## **Association for European Life Science Universities**

for Agriculture – Food – Natural Resources  
– Rural Development – and the  
Environment

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# Strengths

- ICA is the only open general network covering all of Europe
  - Supports networking by acting as an umbrella, especially for the Standing Committees
  - Partnership with NASULGC to support a transatlantic academic dialogue
  - Participation in the Executive Committee of GCHERA to enhance global visibility
  - ICA offers expertise in the development of innovative approaches to teaching and learning
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# New Management Structure

- Board of Rectors/Deans
  - Focus ExCo on operational tasks
  - Secretary General chairs ExCo; appointed by Board
  - Standing Committees remain unchanged; interact with ExCo and Board
  - Task Forces (e.g. Quality Assurance & Accreditation; ICA Marketing Policy)
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# ICA's vision

is to see its members succeed in the international market place by providing the environment to support the sharing of experience, for co-operation in new ventures, and to benefit from the resulting synergy

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# ICA's Objectives

- developing a European dimension to teaching and learning
- enhancing the quality of higher education through international quality assurance and accreditation processes
- promoting European education and research world wide
- supporting collaboration in the work of ICA's Standing Committees
- supporting internationalisation through involvement by ICA in the work of international networks
- co-operating with other relevant organisations
- representing higher education in the life sciences in Europe

# Developing a European dimension to teaching and learning

- **MRENet Project** – *SOCRATES Thematic Network: Redefining the curricula for the multifunctional rural environment – agriculture, forestry and the rural society (lead institution KVL)*
- **Benchmarking Workshop** (2005, 2006)
- **ICA Conference: Enhancing the attractiveness of European institutions to third country students** (2007)

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# International quality assurance and accreditation

- AMEU Project WP3 aims to develop a methodology for the comparative quality assurance of Master degree programmes
  - QUALITY Project – Quality Assurance and Accreditation of International Master degree programmes in Life Sciences and the Rural Environment.
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# QUALITY Project (2006 – 2008)

**Main objectives** are to establish:

- quality assurance benchmarks (criteria) and indicators which can be used to assess the quality of provision (from entry level to excellence) of International European Master degree programmes delivered at one or more institutions.
  - the process, and legal and financial implications for a subsidiary of ICA becoming an International Accreditation Agency awarding the ICA European Quality Label for international European Master degree programmes relating to ICA's constituency.
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# Promoting European education world wide

- **AMEU Project WP1** we are developing an ICA online searchable Portal (database) of Master degree programmes in agriculture, the applied life sciences and the rural environment at European higher education institutions

<http://www.agrocampus-rennes.fr/master-search/>

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# AMEU project

Aims to **enhance the visibility and attractiveness** for students from outside Europe of **Masters degree programmes at European higher education institutions** in agriculture, applied life sciences and the rural environment **so as to improve the flow of international students to European higher education institutions.**



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# Supporting collaboration in the work of ICA's Standing Committees

**The ICA ExCo members support the standing committees' activities**

- **ECHAE**, member of the ECHAE International Committee
  - **IROICA**, member of the IROICA Executive is a member of the ICA ExCo
  - **NATURA**, new initiative for collaboration
  - **USAEE**, attended Conference and Steering Committee Meetings
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# Supporting global internationalisation

## ■ ICA-NASULGC

- **Proceedings** *Providing our graduates with a global perspective through real and virtual student exchange (2005)*
- **Conference: Science and Education of Land Use: A transatlantic, multidisciplinary and comparative approach (planned for 2008)**

## ■ GCHERA

- **Conference** Hangzhou, China Sept 2005
  - **Conference** Costa Rica, March 2007
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# Operationalising the development of ICA (work of ExCo)

- initiating and organising conferences and workshops
  - developing and executing projects
  - disseminating the outcomes of ICA's activities to members
  - monitoring the needs of ICA member institutions and develop proposals to meet those needs
  - attracting funding to enable these activities to be achieved
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# Co-operation with other partners (specialised groups and networks)

- Remember the Mission, Vision and the Objectives:
    - Support collaboration and create synergies
    - Emphasis on principles
    - By doing so help develop good practices
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