



Open eQuality Learning Standards

eQuality Committee Terms of Reference

1. Context and underlying premises

- 1.1. In May 2004, the Open eQuality Learning Standards (Open eQLs) were launched in La Rochelle, France at the Supporting Excellence in E-Learning (SEEL) conference – a gathering of individuals and organizations focused on the quality of eLearning products and services. SEEL is a European Union (EU) project sponsored by the European Institute for e-Learning (EIFEL). The launch was co-sponsored by EIFEL and LIFIA (Learning Innovations Forum d'Innovations d'Apprentissage).
- 1.2. The Open eQLS are based on the Canadian Recommended E-learning Guidelines (CanREGs) which were launched in July 2002 at the Commonwealth of Learning Conference in Durban, South Africa. The CanREGs were the product of a three-year project funded by the Office of Learning Technologies (OLT) of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), and undertaken by FuturEd Inc. with a committee representing seven national/international organizations in Canada. The CanREGs are unique, comprehensive, consumer-based quality standards for eLearning products and services.
- 1.3. QualitE-Learning Assurance Inc., with the sole license to use the CanREGs for commercial purposes, has developed a system to assess and certify the quality of eLearning products and services against the CanREGs. The certification mark is the eQcheck.
- 1.4. In order to broaden the application of the CanREGs and to keep them current, FuturEd wishes to “hand over” the transformation of the CanREGs into the OeQLs, and their on-going management, to the joint eQuality Committee of EIFEL (European Institute for E-Learning) representing the European Union and LIFIA (Learning Innovations Forum d'Innovations d'Apprentissage) representing the Americas. Provision will be made for others representing other relevant organizations to join the Committee at a later date.
- 1.5. The Open eQLS are in the public domain. They are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License. However, QualitE-Learning Assurance Inc. will continue to hold the license to certify against the OeQLS. Provision will be made for other companies to acquire the right to certify against the OeQLs. The eQuality Committee will “manage” the content and dissemination of the OeQLS.

2. eQuality Committee: Membership and Roles

- 2.1. The membership of the joint LfIA – EIfEL eQuality Committee comprises individuals representing relevant organizations and/or individuals who have particular content expertise. Individuals are invited by EIfEL and LfIA to participate; it is not necessary to be a member of LfIA or EIfEL but it is recommended.
- 2.2. The eQuality Committee will be chaired by Dr. K. Chang Barker (Chair of LfIA and President of FuturEd Inc.).
- 2.3. It is planned that the eQuality Committee will liaise with other quality initiatives and standards bodies vis-à-vis, first, eLearning and second, learning systems and tools.
- 2.4. The role of Committee members is to:
 - 2.4.1. Be completely familiar with content and intent of the Open eQuality Learning Standards.
 - 2.4.2. Consider additions and revisions to the Open eQLS in the context of the overall purpose and personal experience and expertise.
 - 2.4.3. Deliberate with other Committee members and reach consensus agreement annually on the content of the final standards. This may take more than one round of deliberations.
 - 2.4.4. Promote the standards where and when possible.
- 2.5. The eQuality Committee will meet annually to update the OeQLs. It is estimated that this should entail a voluntary contribution of approximately three days per year.
- 2.6. AS LfIA and EIfEL are non-profit organizations, accountable to their members, committee members will be asked to have their organization bear as much of the cost of their membership on the committee as possible. Travel expenses will be paid by the Committee where possible. No other direct expenses should be incurred.

2004 Committee Members (in development – have been invited)

Member	Affiliation and Role	Representative of:
Mr. Claudio Dondi	Scienter, President	ElfEL – Italy
Mr. Brian Merison	British Learning Association, Manager	ElfEL – UK
Dr. Ulf Daniel Ehlers	University of Duisbourg Essen, Coordinator European Quality Observatory	ElfEL – Germany
Ms. Tuuli Kurkipaa	Tamperere University of Technology, Coordinator, Tampere eLearning Cluster	ElfEL - Finland
Dr. Tony Treacy	Solent Training, President	ElfEL – UK
Ms. Maureen Layte	European Institute for e-Learning, Development Director	ElfEL – France/EU
<i>Dr. Dominique Abrioux</i>	<i>Athabasca University and Canadian Virtual University, President</i>	<i>LifIA – Higher Ed, Canada</i>
<i>Dr. Bill Muirhead</i>	<i>Canadian Association for Distance Education, President</i>	<i>LifIA – Distance Ed, Canada</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Kazeil</i>	<i>Bell Canada, Director, eLearning and Co- chair, Canadian eLearning Enterprise Alliance</i>	<i>LifIA – Corporate, Canada</i>
<i>Dr. Rosina Smith</i>	<i>Alberta Online Consortium, Executive Director</i>	<i>LifIA – K-12 sector</i>
<i>Dr. Calla MacDonald</i>	<i>University of Ottawa, Professor, Faculty of Education</i>	<i>LifIA – Quality expert</i>
<i>Ms. Andrea Hope</i>	<i>Hong Kong University Shue Yan College, Associate Academic Vice President</i>	<i>Asia / Commonwealth of Learning</i>
Dr. Kathryn Chang Barker	FuturEd Inc., President	LifIA