



Venue in Edinburgh between March 20th and March 24th, 2017
or
About SPARQS excellence in everything they did

Three events have been conducted by SPARQS (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) between March 20th and March 24th:

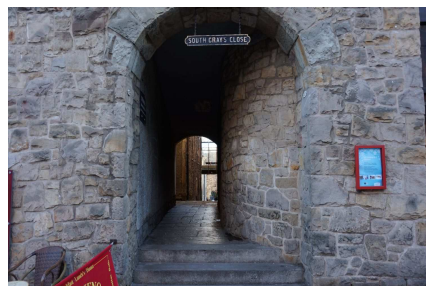
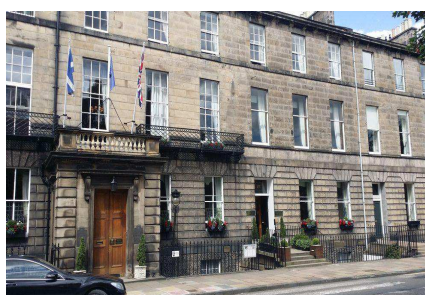
1. on 20th and 21st of March: ESPAQ – 4th Management Meeting;
2. on 22nd of March: International Delegates’ Day
3. on 23rd of March: SPARQS Conference 2017



The first contact with Edinburgh meant not only wind, rain and cold, but also a visit to Edinburgh Castle and some short sightseeing. The second contact with “la grandeur” of the old Scottish Town made us *almost* forget about the bad weather.



Simply getting from say e.g. Cowgate to The Royal Scots Club, on Abercromby Place, one would have to cross from The Old Town towards The New Town walking along so many old worth seeing streets and monuments.



The “fresh” air of history reigns all over, through closes, such as South Gray’s or Blackfriars’ Close, as well as larger streets, such as the Royal Mile or “High Street”. Gothic, Classical, Renaissance, and Neoclassical architecture styles harmonise together.



“From organic medieval to neo-classical town planning and contemporary classics, Edinburgh has it all, with more architectural gems and sites of interest than the cobbles that line the Royal Mile.”



“The organic mix of old and new jostling cheek by jowl in the Old Town and the Georgian splendour of the New Town” together with the long and impetuous Scottish History require a special longer stay in the Capital of Scotland.



Day 1

On 20th of March, at 15.00 o'clock started the 4th Management Meeting sheltered by The Royal Scots Club (29-31, Abercromby Place, Douglas Room).

The Meeting Agenda was duly respected notwithstanding the great number of participants. 30 persons were present, representing: SPARQS-3; UNIMC-4; ESU-2; ANSA-4; ANQA-2; MoES-1; ASUE-2; NPUA-2; YSAFA-3; NUACA-2; ASPU-2; UNIR-1; SHU-2.



After David Scott welcomed everybody on behalf of SPARQS, and accustomed the attendees with the city of Edinburgh through a short video, two representatives of UNIMC project management team, i.e. Roberto Righi and Simone Betti introduced the aim of the meeting, summarised the agenda's topics, and made a brief overview of the project's tasks.



David Scott (SPARQS) leader for WP3, (Students Empowerment in QA) took the floor launching the debate about the QA Handbook finalisation. The participants - Gohar Hovhannisyan (ANSA), Irina Vanyan (NUACA), Adam Gayek (ESU) - contributed with suggestions and proposals. By the end of the first day, Maria Petrosyan (ASUE) presented the assessment report of WP4 (QA Review Simulation) activities, and Mihai Andronie (SHU) introduced the main dissemination tasks.

Day 2

The second Day, Tuesday, 21st of March started at 9.30 with Management topics specific to WP1 activities.



Sara Zuzolo (UNIMC) raised a series of technical-financial issues, pointing out with accuracy several decisive aspects of the project's budget.

In his turn, the Auditor Roberto Di Gioacchino clarified some financial issues and presented the issues to be taken particularly into account when it comes to final reporting and accounting of costs.

Umberto Silvi (UNIMC) identified solutions to some critical issues related to the improvement of the financial tasks.



After a short coffee break, within WP5 – “Capacity Building for Students Organizations to Ensure Students Participation in QA”, Adam Gajek (ESU) presented the updated WP5 work plan including learning outcomes, content, dates etc., specifying that “a further updating will be needed, after the decisions taken during the meeting”. Adam also suggested that the “students’ guide to improving learning experience should be made different rather than the WP3 Handbook: one option would be to draft it as a training tool.”



Keeping with WP5 activities, Simone Betti (UNIMC) presented the draft agenda for the D5.3 QA responsible and staff site visit in Macerata.

Going to WP8 – “Exploitation and Sustainability”, Gohar Hovhannisyan (ANSA) presented the Work plan and the structure for pool of expert students. A research on operating models for students’ pools to understand what is the most applicable one to Armenia was carried out.



Within the framework of the same Work Package 8, Harutyun Azgaldyan (MoES) described the Memorandum of Understanding among the partners. Questions arose on several aspects, especially dealing with the translation into English and the use of some terms.

Last, but, of course, not least, Stefania Aceto (UNIR) described The Quality Assurance & Evaluation Plan (WP7). She suggested organising the next Advisory Board meeting together with the final meeting, in Brussels, in October. The focus will be on sustainability of the project.

Roberto Righi (UNIMC) concluded the two Management Meeting days resuming the main decisions that were taken during the meeting and confirming that all the expected outputs were successfully achieved.

