The Order of Engineers and its Accreditation System

Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo
National Vice-President
sfeyo@cdn.ordeng.pt
http://www.ordemengenheiros.pt

Meeting with ENQA
MCTES, Lisbon, Portugal, 2 February 2006

To say what I am going to say...

1. Engineering Education and the Engineering Profession
2. The Order of Engineers -
   Legal framework; Organisation; Co-operation; Membership...
3. The Accreditation Process Today
   Formal objectives and practical implications; Conceptual model; Procedures; Figures...
4. The Accreditation Process - Preparing the future
   New model
5. The Accreditation Process - What comes next?

Meeting MCTES-ENQA, February 2, 2006
Ordem dos Engenheiros, www.ordemengenheiros.pt, sfeyo@cdn.ordeng.pt
Engineering Education and the Engineering Profession
Academic Titles and Professional Titles

- Academic titles at present (March 2006) still awarded by Portuguese Institutions of Higher Education:
  - Bacharel: a 3 years course
  - Licenciado: a 5 years course
  - Mestre: 2 further years of study, after Licenciado, including a course and research
  - Doutor: 3 to 4 further years of research, after Licenciado or Mestre

- Professional Titles are legally protected in Portugal:
  - The professional title of Engenheiro (Engineer) is awarded by the Order of Engineers. All Licenciados may apply for the professional title of Engineer.
  - The professional title of “Engenheiro Técnico” (Technical Engineer) is awarded by ANET (Associação Nacional dos Engenheiros Técnicos - National Association of Technical Engineers). All holders of a Bacharel degree may apply for the professional title of Engenheiro Técnico

Order of Engineers
I - Legal Framework and Mission Statement (I)

- Order of Engineers is the public association that represents the holders of a Licenciado diploma that work as Engenheiros (Engineers).
- Order of Engineers (OE) was created in November 24, 1936 and is ruled by the Portuguese law, decree n. 119/92 of the 30th June, which contains all its legal competencies.
- Order of Engineers is independent from the State and has administrative, financial, scientific, disciplinary and regulatory autonomy.
- Order of Engineers is the single largest Portuguese professional association with about 32000 members
Among other competencies:

- To support and cooperate on the development of Engineering education in order to guarantee a high standard of the Engineering profession

- To promote exchanges with the national and foreign comparable organizations in order to develop any cultural and professional links involving the Engineers in the world.

OE is worldwide associated (and actively co-operates) with a very significant number of organizations representing engineering:

Just to mention some -

- CLAIU - Comité de Liaison des Associations d'Ingénieurs de l'Union Européenne;
- FEANI - Fédération Européenne des Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs;
- All partners of EUR-ACE (EC-UK, ASIN, CTI, CoPi, SEFI, IEI, RAEE, EUROCADRES, UNIFI...)
- Partners from Portuguese spoken Countries
Order of Engineers
IV - Membership - Conditions of admission (I)

For holders of a Diploma of Licenciado in Engineering by a Portuguese Institution:
To obtain the professional title of Engenheiro, the Order of Engineers requires the fulfillment of the following further conditions:

- To have been approved in an admission exam organized and run by Order of Engineer
- To have gone through an approved period of training and to have attended an Ethics and Professional Conduct course also run by OE

The Accreditation Process Today
I - Formal Objectives, Practical Consequences

Formal
- The accreditation process aims at exempting candidates from the admission exam
- A Candidate holding a diploma from an accredited course IS EXEMPTED from the admission exam

Practical consequences
- Far wider consequences
- Accreditation is an exercise that leads to significant organisational improvements
- Accreditation is perceived by the Society as a stamp of quality of a course offered by an institution
The Accreditation Process Today

II - Conceptual Model

- **Main reference terms**
  - School Administration
  - Teaching staff
  - Curricular content
  - School enrolment and assessment of students
  - Course structure
  - R&D quality
  - Facilities and resources
  - Administrative procedures
  - Institutional culture

- Inspired on ABET and EC-UK criteria of the nineties...

- It is clear that it is Engineering Degree Programs and not Institutions that are accredited

---

The Accreditation Process Today

III - Procedure

- **National Admission and Qualification Council runs the accreditation process**
  - 24 members (2 per College) chaired by a Vice-President

- Accreditation Committee of 4-5 members
- Analysis of dossier previously submitted
- 1-Day Visit
- Reporting
- Proposal of decision

- All steps are regulated in the general procedure approved by the OE’s National Board

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The Accreditation Process Today

IV - Decision

The decision may take the following forms:

a) Full 6-year accreditation, subject to revaluation at the end of this period, expecting that recommendations listed in the report will be addressed

b) Limited 3-year accreditation, the report stating the aspects to be corrected within the indicated period and to be assessed in a new accreditation process

c) Non-accreditation decision, the report stating the aspects that led to this decision

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The Accreditation Process Today

V - Accreditations carried out since 1994 (I)

- Applications: 246
- Accredited: 170
- Non-Accredited: 33
- In progress: 43
The Accreditation Process Today
V - Accreditations carried out since 1994 (II)

ACCREDITATION OF ENGINEERING COURSES
(number of submitted courses and decisions issued)

Cumulative Numbers

Reference date (beginning of semester)

The Accreditation process - preparing the future
I - National Activity and International Co-operation

- New Accreditation System in testing phase
  - 3 pilot projects running
  - In agreement with EUR-ACE Guidelines

- Active participation in EUR-ACE project

- Founder member of ENAEE - European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education
The Accreditation process - preparing the future
II - New Approach and Methodological Guidelines (I)

New fresh approach

- By requisites (16 criteria)
- Focused to the professional practice
- Evaluation on the basis of evidence
- Emphasis on quality improvement
- Follow-up of the quality plan of programmes
- Obeying EUR-ACE standards and procedures
- Seeking accreditation of OE by ENAEE

The Accreditation process - preparing the future
II - New Approach and Methodological Guidelines (II)

The 16 Requisites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requisite</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REQUISITE 1 - LEGITIMACY OF THE COURSE OPERATION</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 2 - ORGANISATION OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 3 - STRATEGY OF THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WITH REGARD TO THE COURSE UNDER CONSIDERATION</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 4 - COURSE DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 5 - COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUISITE 6 - RANGE OF THE COURSE AND SPECIFIC SKILLS</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 7 - CURRICULUM STRUCTURE AND PEDAGOGIC PROGRAMME</td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUISITE 8 - DESCRIPTION OF THE THEMES TAUGHT AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES</td>
<td></td>
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<td>REQUISITE 9 - STANDARD OF TEACHING</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 10 - INVOLVEMENT OF THE TEACHERS IN THE RUNNING OF THE COURSE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUISITE 11 - ADMISSION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE STUDENTS</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 12 - EVALUATION OF THE COURSE BY STUDENTS, RECENT GRADUATES AND EMPLOYERS</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 13 - SUITABILITY OF PREMISES</td>
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<td>REQUISITE 14 - PEDAGOGIC FACILITIES</td>
<td></td>
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<td>REQUISITE 15 - COURSE MONITORING</td>
<td></td>
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<td>REQUISITE 16 - EFFECTS OF OTHER EVALUATIONS AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN</td>
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The Accreditation process
What comes next?

- OE is fully committed to Quality Assurance
- Articulation with the National Accreditation System...
- Aiming at fulfilling our Statutory Obligation within this new paradigm of international and in particular European co-operation, of

Supporting and co-operating on the development of Engineering education in order to guarantee the highest standard for the Engineering profession

Order of Engineers and its Accreditation Process

Full Presentation
Engineering Education and the Engineering Profession

I - Academic Titles

* Academic titles at present (March 2006) still awarded by Portuguese Institutions of Higher Education:
  - Bacharel: a 3 years course
  - Licenciado: a 5 years course
  - Mestre: 2 further years of study, after Licenciado, including a course and research
  - Doutor: 3 to 4 further years of research, after Licenciado or Mestre

* Academic Titles after the reform, 2006/2007:
  - Licenciado: 6 to 8 semesters of work (full-time equivalent)
  - Mestre: after further 3 to 4 semesters or through an integrated programme
  - Doutor: after a minimum of 3 years of course and research work

Meeting MCTES-ENQA, February 2, 2006
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Engineering Education and the Engineering Profession

II - The Offer of Engineering Education in Portugal

* 297 Engineering Courses under 126 Designations

* 64 Schools of Engineering in 44 Institutions of Higher Education
  - 30 institutions of the public subsystem
    - 13 Universities with their 18 University Schools
    - 17 Polytechnic Institutes with their 29 Polytechnic Schools
  - 14 Institutions of the Private and Concordatary subsystem
    - 7 Universities with their 7 University Schools
    - 7 Higher Education Institutions with 10 Polytechnic Schools

* Out of the 297 courses
  - 97 courses are currently accredited by the Order of Engineers, corresponding to 56 different designations

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Engineering Education and the Engineering Profession

III - Professional Titles and Professional Regulation

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  - The professional title of “Engenheiro Técnico” (Technical Engineer) is awarded to any *bacharel* by ANET (Associação Nacional dos Engenheiros Técnicos - National Association of Technical Engineers)

- The Engineering Profession is partially regulated in Portugal
  - Some acts, namely in Civil Engineering, but also in areas of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, can only be performed by members of Order of Engineers

Order of Engineers

I - Legal Framework and Mission Statement (I)

- Order of Engineers is the public association that represents the holders of a *Licenciado* diploma that work as *Engenheiros* (Engineers).
- Order of Engineers (OE) was created in November 24, 1936 and is ruled by the Portuguese law, decree n. 119/92 of the 30th June, which contains all its legal competencies.
- Order of Engineers is independent from the State and has administrative, financial, scientific, disciplinary and regulatory autonomy.
- Order of Engineers is the single largest Portuguese professional association - approx. 32000 members
Order of Engineers
I - Legal Framework and Mission Statement (II)

The main purpose of the Order of Engineers is to contribute to the development of the Portuguese Engineering by working with other partners for the improvement of legal frameworks and of the scientific, professional and social level of its members, and by accomplishing codes of professional ethics.

Some competencies:
- To award the professional title of Engineer and to protect it against abuse
- To regulate the professional practice and also to protect the professional practice by legal means
- To improve Engineers' professional qualification and to ensure the accomplishment of the professional code of ethics
- To support and cooperate on the development of Engineering education in order to guarantee a high standard of the Engineering profession
- To promote exchanges with the national and foreign comparable organizations in order to develop any cultural and professional links involving the Engineers in the world.

Order of Engineers
II - Internal organisation (I)

Territorial, covering all the Country with
- 3 Regions with Delegations
- and 2 Sections (Madeira and Azores)

Colleges - 12 Specialties, covering all the engineering areas

Governance by a National Board of Directors
- President (Bastonário) and 2 Vice-Presidents nationally elected
- 6 other members, representing the Regions, elected in each Region

Governance supported by two major Councils
- Admissions and Qualification Council that regulates the admission and qualification of members
- Colleges Co-ordinating Council
Professional Recognition and Qualifications
Order of Engineers
II - Internal organisation (II)

- Internal organisation in Colleges - 12 Specialties
  - Civil Engineering
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Mining Engineering
  - Chemical Engineering
  - Naval Engineering
  - Geographic Engineering
  - Forest Engineering
  - Metallurgical Engineering
  - Agricultural Engineering
  - Informatics Engineering

- Each College has its own National Board and Regional Coordination Board

Order of Engineers
II - Internal organisation (III)

- Specializations (different from Specialties) - more horizontal, or sub-areas within major areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Textile Engineering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Engineering</td>
<td>Construction Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Engineering</td>
<td>Territorial Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geotechnics</td>
<td>Structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acoustic Engineering</td>
<td>Transportations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Conditioning Engineering</td>
<td>Hydraulics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Engineering</td>
<td>Industrial Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>Automation and Control</td>
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<td>Systems</td>
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<td>Aeronautics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications</td>
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Order of Engineers
II - Internal organisation (IV)

- Staff
  - Headquarters
    - 16 strong, of which 8 with University Degree
      - Department of Admissions and Qualification
        - 4 members of staff - with University degree
  - North Region
    - 16
  - Center Region
    - 7
  - South Region
    - 18
  - Sections (Madeira and Azores)
    - 4

Order of Engineers
III - Institutional Co-operation and Agreements (I)

OE is associated with a significant number of organizations representing engineering:

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<tr>
<td>EUCEET - European Civil Engineering Education and Training;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCE - European Council of Civil Engineers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUREL - Convention of National Societies of Electrical Engineers of Europe;</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEIBEM - Federação Ibero-Americana de Engenheiros Mecânicos;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDIA - Confederation Européenne d’Ingénieurs Agronomes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFCE - European Federation of Chemical Engineers;</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEMT - Confederation of European Maritime Technologies;</td>
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<td>ECG - European Commission of Glass;</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIG - Federation of Surveyors;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHVA - Federation of European Heating and Air Conditioning Associations;</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFPA - Confederation of Fire Protection Associations;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEAS - Confederation European Aerospace Societies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Order of Engineers
III - Institutional Co-operation and Agreements (II)

OE has (or has had) also several partnerships or memorandums of understanding with other European and American Engineering Association (EC-UK, ASIIN, CTI, CoPi, SEFI, IEI, RAEE, EUROCADRES, UNIFI, ABET...).

OE further has a close relationship with similar Associations of the CPLP (Portuguese Speaking Community):

- CONFEA - Brazil
- Order of Engineers of Angola
- Order of Engineers of Mozambique
- Order of Engineers of Cabo Verde

Order of Engineers
IV - Membership - Conditions of admission (I)

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Order of Engineers
IV - Membership - Conditions of admission (II)

For candidates holding a diploma from other countries:

- Candidates holding a diploma from a country of the European Union will have their request analyzed according to legislation approved in the Directives for Professional Recognition and its related translation to Portuguese legislation.

- Candidates holding a diploma from third countries will have to seek equivalence from a Portuguese University.

Order of Engineers
IV - Membership - Numbers

About 32000 members in the 12 Specialties

- Civil Engineering (C) 40,8%
- Electrical Engineering (E) 21,6%
- Mechanical Engineering (M) 13,7%
- Mining Engineering (N) 2,0%
- Chemical Engineering (H) 8,0%
- Naval Engineering (N) 0,3%
- Geographic Engineering (G) 0,8%
- Forest Engineering (F) 1,3%
- Metallurgical Engineering (T) 0,7%
- Agricultural Engineering 8,6%
- Informatics Engineering 0,7%

About 6000 registered trainees
The Accreditation Process Today
I - Formal Objectives, Practical Consequences

Formal
- The accreditation process aims at exempting candidates from the admission exam
- A Candidate holding a diploma from an accredited course IS EXEMPTED from the admission exam

Practical consequences
- Far wider consequences
- Accreditation is an exercise that leads to significant organisational improvements
- Accreditation is perceived by the Society as a stamp of quality of a course offered by an institution

The Accreditation Process Today
II - Conceptual Model

Main reference terms
- School Administration
- Teaching staff
- Curricular content
- School enrolment and assessment of students
- Course structure
- R&D quality
- Facilities and resources
- Administrative procedures
- Institutional culture

Inspired on ABET and EC-UK criteria of the nineties...

It is clear that it is Engineering Degree Programs and not Institutions that are accredited
The Accreditation Process Today
III - Procedure

National Admission and Qualification Council runs the accreditation process
- 24 members (2 per College) chaired by a Vice-President

✓ Accreditation Committee of 4-5 members
✓ Analysis of dossier previously submitted
✓ 1-Day Visit
✓ Reporting
✓ Proposal of decision

All steps are regulated in the general procedure approved by the OE’s National Board

The Accreditation Process Today
IV - Decision

The decision may take the following forms:

a) Full 6-year accreditation, subject to revaluation at the end of this period, expecting that recommendations listed in the report will be addressed

b) Limited 3-year accreditation, the report stating the aspects to be corrected within the indicated period and to be assessed in a new accreditation process

c) Non-accreditation decision, the report stating the aspects that led to this decision
The Accreditation Process Today

V - Accreditations carried out since 1994 (I)

ORDEM DOS ENGENHEIROS - GABINETE DE QUALIFICAÇÃO
CONCISE SITUATION OF THE ACCREDITATION OF ENGINEERING COURSES
RELATED TO February 2, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colleges</th>
<th>Applicant courses</th>
<th>Scheduled visits</th>
<th>Completed visits</th>
<th>Completed reports</th>
<th>Accredited courses</th>
<th>n' accred courses</th>
<th>Decisions</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>208</td>
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The Accreditation Process Today

V - Accreditations carried out since 1994 (II)

ACCREDITATION OF ENGINEERING COURSES
(number of submitted courses and decisions issued)
The Accreditation process - preparing the future
I - National Activity and International Co-operation

- New Accreditation System in testing phase
  - 3 pilot projects running
  - In agreement with EUR-ACE Guidelines
- Active co-operation within EUR-ACE project
- Founder member of ENAEE - European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education

The Accreditation process - preparing the future
II - New Approach and Methodological Guidelines (I)

- New fresh approach
  - By requisites (16 criteria)
  - Focused to the professional practice
  - Evaluation on the basis of evidence
  - Emphasis on quality improvement
  - Follow-up of the quality plan of programmes
  - Obeying EUR-ACE standards and procedures
  - Seeking accreditation of OE by ENAEE
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<td>Involvement of the Teachers in the Running of the Course</td>
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<td>Admission, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Students</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the Course by Students, Recent Graduates and Employers</td>
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What comes next?

OE is fully committed to Quality Assurance

Articulation with the National Accreditation System...

Aiming at fulfilling our Statutory Obligation within this new paradigm of international and in particular European co-operation, of

Supporting and co-operating on the development of Engineering education in order to guarantee the highest standard for the Engineering profession