

Press Release

11 January 2017

SPANISH INSTITUTO DE CENSORES JURADOS DE CUENTAS DE ESPAÑA (ICJCE) BECOMES ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF COMMON CONTENT PROJECT

In response to the globalisation of business activity, the single market and regulatory harmonisation, leading accountancy Institutes have brought their professional accountancy qualifications closer together through the Common Content Project by developing, maintaining and unifying high quality professional accountancy education benchmarks reflected in the distinct qualifications of these bodies and recognised internationally as meeting the challenges posed by globalisation and the needs of diverse stakeholders. The successful implementation of this convergence of national qualifications was evidenced by the application of a rigorous review process under public oversight. The Common Content Project seeks to further internationalise and harmonise the high quality educational outcomes for relevant skills of professional accountants, of premier accountancy bodies, that are subject to globalisation and changing public expectations, while retaining the strengths of local educational structures, qualifications and designations.

The Oversight Committee, one half of which are fully independent members, are responsible for ensuring that the membership and compliance processes of the Project are carried out fairly and in accordance with the requirements of the Project. The Oversight Committee reports publicly on its findings in this respect.

The 13 leading accountancy Institutes from 10 major EU member states now are:

Belgium	Instituut van de Bedrijfsrevisoren / Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises
France	Compagnie Nationale des Commissaires aux Comptes Ordre des Experts-Comptables
Germany	Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer Wirtschaftsprüferkammer
Ireland	Chartered Accountants Ireland
Italy	Consiglio Nazionale dei Dottori Commercialisti e degli Esperti Contabili
The Netherlands	Koninklijke Nederlandse Beroepsorganisatie van Accountants
Poland	Krajowa Izba Biegłych Rewidentów (associate member)
Romania	Camera Auditorilor Financiari din România (associate member)
Spain	Instituto de Censores Jurados de Cuentas de España (associate member)
United Kingdom	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

In its meeting on 19 December 2016 the Steering Group, the governing body of the Common Content Project, voted to accept the Instituto de Censores Jurados de Cuentas de España (ICJCE), the premier body of accountancy and auditing practitioners in Spain, as an associate member of the Common Content Project.

Hans van Damme, the Chair of the Steering Group, announced: "On behalf of the members of the Common Content Project, I am very pleased to be able to announce that the ICJCE has become an associate member of the Project. Spain has the fifth largest economy in the EU and consequently the Spanish auditing profession plays an important role in the European economy and in the European profession. The addition of Spain to our

membership is a great step towards the Project achieving the critical mass needed to be widely recognized as the de facto “common training framework” for professional accountants and auditors in the EU. The inclusion of Spain on the Project also demonstrates the Project’s commitment to high quality accountancy and auditing education for all of the main regions of Europe, including Southern Europe. We hope that the remaining professional accountancy bodies in the EU that are not yet members of the Project will take the opportunity to consider membership in the Project.

Javier Quintana Navío, CEO of the ICJCE notes: “On behalf of the ICJCE, I would like to thank the Steering Group for accepting the ICJCE as an associate member of the Project. We look forward to contributing to the Project and its efforts to commence a dialogue with audit oversight authorities in the EU on the harmonization of the education of statutory auditors. We support the cooperative efforts by the professional accountancy bodies in the Project to enhance the quality of the education of auditors in the EU. We encourage other professional accountancy bodies in the EU that are not yet members to recognize the opportunities provided by the Project to engage on the development of accountancy and auditor education.”

Jens Wüstemann, independent chair of the Oversight Committee added: “We would like to congratulate the Common Content Project on further expanding its membership to now encompass all of the five largest economies in the EU. On behalf of the Oversight Committee, I am very pleased to report that the Oversight Committee has determined that the Steering Group has properly carried out the compliance process for the admission of new members as the Project documents require when considering the associate membership of the ICJCE.”

The approved Common Content Project documents can be accessed at www.commoncontent.com

Media Enquiries

Hans van Damme, Chair, Common Content Steering Group, +31 (653) 248 476 or hcmvandamme@gmail.com

Wolfgang Böhm, Member and Secretary, Common Content Project, +49 (211) 4561 236 or boehm@idw.de