



Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA Initiative)

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Caty Duykaerts, Vice-President, ENQA

Paula Ranne, Deputy Director, ENQA

This initiative is implemented on behalf of the European and African Union Commissions by:



DAAD

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FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Part 1 – information input

- The broader picture: PAQAF – why now? with who?
- What is HAQAA? What is ENQA's role?
- Elaborating on the ASG-QA
- Designing the agency review model

Part 2 – discussion

Implementation of a continental QA framework:

- The role of a continental agency?
- Key issues for a successful implementation of the ASG-QA?
- ASG-QA: Research is a separate standard.
- Review methodology: Language as a barrier for unity?

Some challenges in African HE

- Massification of HE and ensuring relevance and quality of provision
- Governance issues
- Inadequate funding – lack of judicious use of resources
- Student/staff ratio
- Lack of qualified academic staff
- Need to improve research capacity and innovative mindset for social economic development



Reasons for a common framework

- AU vision for a required harmonised education system: intra-Africa mobility & skills portability
- A slight improvement in the quality of HE – still falls short internationally
- Cooperation not new; strong regional collaboration for decades
- In the last 10 years, the number of national QAAs tripled, common language still missing



PAQAF

To implement the AU Executive Council Decision on establishing a ***continental Accreditation Agency for higher education***, the African Union Commission (AUC) has initiated the development of a ***Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework*** (PAQAF)



Continental agency

- To coordinate and facilitate the harmonisation of HE and QA systems across Africa
- Set and review standards & guidelines
- Oversee the adoption and implementation of these standards
- Develop and operationalise a continental peer review system
- Facilitate collaboration, consultation and networking between national QA agencies and regional agencies



HAQAA Initiative

- EU Service contract 2015-2018
- Implementing consortium: University of Barcelona (coordinator), AAU, DAAD, EUA and ENQA
- Objective: “Contribute to and support the harmonisation of higher education programmes and the creation of a revitalised, distinctive, attractive and globally competitive African higher education space, through enhanced intra-African collaboration”
 - Development of a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system at institutional level, national, regional and Pan-African continental level



ENQA's role in the Initiative

- To coordinate and participate in the work of the Technical Working Group in drafting the ASG-QA and review methodology for agencies.



Part A - Standards and Guidelines for Internal Quality Assurance (for HEIs)

Standard 1. Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives

Standard 2. Governance and Management

Standard 3. Human Resources

Standard 4. Financial Resource Management

Standard 5. Infrastructure and Facilities

Standard 6. Student Recruitment, Admission, Certification and Support Services

Standard 7. Design, Approval, Monitoring and Evaluation of Study Programmes

Standard 8. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Standard 9. Research and Innovation

Standard 10. Community Engagement

Standard 11. Information Management System

Standard 12. Public Communication

Standard 13. Collaboration, Staff and Student Mobility

(ESG: 10)



Part B: Standards and Guidelines for External Quality Assurance

Standard 1. Objectives of External Quality Assurance and Consideration for Internal Quality Assurance

Standard 2. Designing External Quality Assurance Mechanisms Fit-for-Purpose

Standard 3. Implementation Processes of External Quality Assurance

Standard 4. Independence of Evaluation

Standard 5. Decision and Reporting of External Quality Assurance Outcomes

Standard 6. Periodic Review of Institutions and Programmes

Standard 7. Complaints and Appeals

(ESG: 7)



Part C: Standards and Guidelines for Internal Quality Assurance of QAAs

Standard 1. Legal Status

Standard 2. Vision and Mission Statement

Standard 3. Governance and Management

Standard 4. Independence of QAA

Standard 5. Policies, Processes and Activities

Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance

Standard 7. Financial and Human Resources

Standard 8. Benchmarking, Networking and Collaboration

Standard 9. Periodic Review of QAAs

(ESG: 7)



Standard 9: Research and Innovation

Standard

The institution shall encourage, promote, and engage in innovative research consistent with its policies and strategic plans, and address national, regional, continental, and international needs. The institution shall encourage innovation in its teaching, learning and research.

The institution shall ensure that the management of postgraduate studies is conducted within an approved framework of institutional policies and plans that ensure quality ethical research.



Standard 9: Research and Innovation

Guidelines

Research is one of the core activities of a higher education institution, and the institution thus needs an institution-wide research policy that sets the direction of its research. The policy is at both institutional and research-programme level (postgraduate studies) to ensure proper engagement in research. The institution ensures that:

- a) There is a shared understanding of the nature, role and goals of research;
- b) There are standards, procedures and processes for the approval of research proposals, and theses, and the conduct and supervision of research studies;
- c) There are policies, research management systems and strategies, adequate infrastructure and resources that facilitate all staff to undertake innovative research, and publish research results;
- d) There are standards and processes for the approval of research proposals and theses, in line with the research needs of the national or regional context, and capacity building possibilities for researchers, management of research partnerships and research contracts, handling of intellectual property and commercialisation of research, and effective and trustworthy management of research information;
- e) There is adequate academic integrity through the establishment and use of appropriate research committees and boards to ensure academic integrity;
- f) The research undertaken is relevant and responsive to the needs for academic advancement and community development expectations; and
- g) There is effective monitoring and evaluation of the research system.

Review methodology for QA agencies

Key factors:

- Self-assessment by the agency
- Expert panel
- Site visit
- Coordinating Body (One or several possible?)
- Decision-making Body (Continental agency?)
- External review report (Public?)
- Follow-up