

Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE)

Introduction to the project
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Project title

→ “Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE)”

Co-Financing

→ Erasmus Mundus Programme of the European Union

Coordinator/applicant

→ European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)

Duration of the project

→ From 01 October 2013 to 31 December 2015 (27 months)

Homepage

→ <http://qache.wordpress.com/>

Project partnership

QA Networks

- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Belgium (applicant/coordinator)

<http://www.enqa.eu/>



- Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE), Bahrain

<http://www.anqahe.org/>



- Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN), China

<http://www.apqn.org/>



QA agencies

- The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), United Kingdom

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx>



- Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education (AERES), France

<http://www.aeres-evaluation.fr/>



- The National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA), Spain

<http://www.aneca.es/eng/ANECA>



- German Accreditation Council (GAC), Germany

<http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de>



- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australia

<http://www.teqsa.gov.au/>



Project aims

- Enhancing **policy dialogue** within Europe as well as between Europe and other world regions on QA of cross-border higher education → mutual understanding of different QA approaches
- Supporting the development of a **European dimension** in QA through common standards and shared principles by the European providers
- Developing the **international dimension** of higher education
- Facilitating and enhancing the **engagement of European higher education institutions** in cross-border higher education delivery → more presence, accessibility and attractiveness
- Contributing to the **protection of students** against poor quality higher education provision (recognition of CBHE)
- Supporting the implementation of **international (OECD/UNESCO) and European (ESG) standards and guidelines** on QA.

Direct target groups

- European providers of cross-border higher education (higher education institutions)
- European quality assurance agencies
- Quality assurance agencies in countries outside of Europe.

Indirect target groups (long term)

- Students
- Policy makers in higher education on national and European levels
- Higher education sector.

Project's innovative aspect

→The innovative and special side of the QACHE project is the creation of a common **European QA approach to cross-border higher education** which will contribute to the promotion of European higher education in other parts of the world.

Main project outcomes

- **Toolkit** for QA agencies and higher education institutions → common principles/approaches on QA of cross-border higher education and a framework to guide the activities of external and internal QA processes of cross-border higher education
- **Common standards** for QA of cross-border higher education → list of specific standards for QA agencies and higher education institutions when assessing cross-border higher education externally and internally
- Comprehensive **final project report** including main recommendations to be disseminated widely to all target groups.

Project outputs during summer 2014:

- **Survey of QA agencies in Europe** (information on how the QA agencies address QA of cross-border education),
- **Survey of QA agencies members of ANQAHE & APQN** (information on the “host country” perspective)
- **Country reports** (national framework, laws, guidelines etc.) & case of good practice in the provider countries in Europe in QA of cross-border higher education
- **Survey of cross-border education in Europe** to assess the current situation (sample of institutions active in CBHE)

Why are we here in London?

- To validate the results of the research (the surveys, country reports, good practice cases and in-depth interviews) and to support the development of the project outcomes (toolkit and standards on QA of CBHE).
- To verify and contextualise information collected and to support the interpretation of findings.
- To offer the participants an opportunity to meet and discuss the QA related issues of CBHE, share examples of good practice, and explore in small groups possible models to facilitate the processes for all involved actors.

What next?

- Two regional seminars: Bahrain (19-20 Nov) and Macau (23 Jan) to validate and enrich findings from the two regional surveys and to meet with local colleagues.
- Toolkit on QA of cross-border higher education for QA agencies and higher education institutions.
- Common criteria for QA of cross-border higher education for QA agencies and higher education institutions.
- Format of pilot testing (of the principles and approaches suggested by the toolkit) to be applied voluntarily by identified cross-border higher education initiatives.
- Final project report and dissemination conference **October 2015**.



Thank you!

