UNESCO Regional Consultation Meeting for Western Europe

« The role of quality assurance in higher education: challenges, developments and trends »

15-16 February 2018

Location
Centre international de conférences Genève (CICG)
Rue de Varembé 17, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Rooms 3&4

Agenda

Higher education is central to socio-economic development, and vital to competitiveness in an increasingly globalizing world. Higher education through its contribution to knowledge, innovation and capacity development plays a critical capacity building and professional training role in support of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Research findings indicate that investment in higher education may promote faster innovative and technological catch-up and improve a country's ability to maximize its economic output. Thus, higher education institutions are challenged to adjust their program structures, curricula, teaching and learning methods to adapt to new demands. In recognition of this challenge, greater attention is being focused on quality assurance as a critical factor to ensuring educational relevance. The principles guiding the recently adopted Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action: "Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all" underscores the importance of establishing robust quality assurance systems as necessary instruments for addressing the above challenges.

With this in mind and to better understand the potentials for higher education and its quality assurance mechanisms in the implementation of Education 2030 and the Sustainable Development agenda, there is a major need for policymakers, educationalists, quality assurance professionals and other regulatory bodies and stakeholders to further explore the intricacies of quality assurance. Against this background, UNESCO, in collaboration with regional and global co-organizing partners will organize an International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Paris, France, fall 2018.

As part of preparations for the Conference a series of regional events are being organized in different parts of the world, the proceedings and reports of which will feed into the final Conference. The present constitutes the fifth in the series and is organized in partnership with the Swiss agency of quality assurance and accreditation (AAQ) with the support of the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO. A parallel connected event will cover the Eastern Europe region and will be held in Moscow in spring 2018.

Main Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of major opportunities and challenges to the development of QA in Higher Education in the region ;
- Reflections on the role of Higher Education and QA in sustainable development;
- Development strategies for engaging governments, QA bodies, HEIs and other stakeholders in enhancement of QA to enable it responding to system needs and transformations;
- Exchange of good QA practices in the region and beyond;
- Development of a regional synthesis report.

Target pubic: mainly European quality assurance agencies, higher education institutions, policy makers, governmental bodies, companies and other stakeholders dealing with the various facets of quality in higher education.

Event language: English

Participation fee: none

Day 1 – Thursday 15 February 2018	
08:30 – 09:25	*Registration for day 1*
09:30 – 09:50	**Welcome words** **Christoph Grolimund, Director, Swiss agency of quality assurance and accreditation (AAQ), Switzerland; President, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)** **Hassmik Tortian, Programme Specialist, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO** **Nicolas Mathieu, Secretary General, Swiss Commission for UNESCO, Switzerland**
09:50 – 10:30	**Keynote speaker** **Patrick Aebischer, President Emeritus, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) Lausanne, Switzerland** **"Quality in higher education – a very personal view"**
10:30 – 11:00	*Break*
11:00 – 13:10	*Session 1* *Quality Assurance and the Diversification of Provision in Higher Education* **Facilitator: Padraig Walsh, Chief executive, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), Ireland; Advisory Council Member, CHEA International Quality Group**
11:05 – 11:40	**Keynote speaker** **Ebba Ossiannilsson, Swedish Association for Distance Education, Leader of EDEN SIG for QE in TEL, ICDE Focal Points on Quality, Sweden** **"Quality models in online and open education around the globe: State of the art and recommendations"**
11:45 – 12:10	**Case Study 1** **George Ubachs, Managing Director, European Association for Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU); European Coordinator, ICDE Quality Network** **"Towards a common understanding of QA in various forms of study provisions, including online, open and flexible education: conclusions of the EADTU-ENQA Peer learning activity"**
12:15 – 12:40	**Case Study 2** **Florian Rampelt, Director of Education, Kiron Open Higher Education, Germany** **"Quality assurance tools for MOOC-based curricula"**
12:45 – 13:10	**Case Study 3** **Ahidoba De Franchi Mandscheff, Center of continuing education and distant learning, Geneva University, Switzerland** **"The challenges of QA of distance education seen by a traditional university"**
13:15 – 14:45	*Lunch Buffet*

14:45 – 17:15	*Session 2* *The Role of Quality Assurance in Fostering Sustainable Development* **Facilitator: Michal Karpíšek, Secretary General, European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE)**
14:50 – 16:15	**Round table A** **What role for higher education institutions in sustainable development?** **Moderation by** **Hilligje van't Land, Secretary General, International Association of Universities; Executive Director, International Universities Bureau** **Perspectives from** **Filomena Amador, Department of Education and Distance Education, Universidade Aberta, Portugal** **Rietje van Dam-Mieras, emeritus professor Sustainable Development and Innovation of Education, Leiden University, The Netherlands** **Tony Donohoe, Head of education, social and innovation policy, Irish Business and Employers Confederation IBEC, Ireland** **Marie-Claire Graf, Student, University of Zurich; President, Swiss Association of Student Organisations for Sustainability (VSN-FDD-FSS), Switzerland** **Katarina Gårdfeldt, Ex-Director, Centre for Environment and sustainability, University of Gothenburg and Chalmers University; Director-General, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden**
16:15 – 16:35	*Break*
16:40 – 17:15	**Keynote speaker** **Katharina Resch, University of Vienna, Postgraduate Center, Austria; Coordinator of the EU-funded Project UNIBILITY** **Presentation of the 2017 "Guidelines for universities engaging in social responsibility"**
17:20 – 17:40	**Conclusions of day 1** **Tia Loukkola, Director Institutional Development Unit, European University Association (EUA)** **Michaela Martin, Programme Specialist, International Institute for Educational Planning, UNESCO**

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Day 2 – Friday 16 February 2018	
08:15 – 08:40	*Registration for day 2*
08:45 – 09:15	**Introduction** **Manos Antoninis**, Director of Global Education Monitor, UNESCO **"Quality assurance for accountability in higher education – a global perspective"**
09:15 – 12:40	*Session 3* *Relevance of External Quality Assurance: Accountability and Improvement* **Facilitator: François Pernot**, Director of European & International Department, High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES), France
09:20 – 09:55	**Keynote speaker** **Judith S. Eaton**, President, Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), USA **"Is academic quality though accreditation possible and demonstrable"?**
10.00 – 10.25	**Case Study 1:** **Caty Duykaerts**, Executive Director, Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur (AEQES), Belgium **"For an integrated and progressive methodological approach, guaranteed by AEQES"**
10:25 – 10:50	**Case Study 2:** **David Avery**, Senior Partnership Manager, FutureLearn, Camden, London, UK **"Relevance of today's external quality assurance and its impact on quality of education under digital transformation at FutureLearn"**
10:50 – 11:15	*Break*
11:15 – 11:40	**Case Study 3:** **Dagmar Provijn**, Senior Policy Advisor, Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO), The Netherlands & Flanders **"Institutional reviews in Flanders"**
11:45 – 12:40	**Round Table B** **Increased student involvement in quality assurance: what impact?** **Moderation by** **Anna Gover**, Policy & Project Officer in the Institutional Development Unit, European University Association (EUA) **Perspectives from** **Adam Gajek**, Vice President, European Student Union (ESU) **Fernando Galán**, Policy and Project Officer, EURASHE **Geneviève Le Fort,** Vice Rector for Quality, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO), Switzerland **David Metz**, Special Advisor, Danish Accreditation Institution (AI), Denmark **Alan Tait**, Professor Emeritus of Distance Education and Development, The Open University, UK
12:40 –14:00	*Lunch buffet*

14:00 – 16:15	**Session 4**
	Quality Assurance: Internationalisation and Mutual Recognition
	Facilitator: Karl Dittrich, President, European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)
14:05 – 14:40	**Keynote speaker**
	Deirdre Lennan, International Policy Officer, International Cooperation Unit, European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
	"The next 10 years of the internationalization of higher education"
14:40 – 15:35	**Round Table C**
	Meaningful internationalisation rather than just student mobility statistics
	Moderation by
	Sabine Pendl, Director of the Office of International Relations, University of Graz, Austria; Vice-President, European Association for International Education (EAIE)
	Perspectives from
	Marta Fajó Pascual, Vice Dean of International Relations and Student Mobility, Faculty of Health and Sports Sciences, University of Zaragoza, Spain
	Dagmar Provijn, Senior Policy Advisor, Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO), The Netherlands & Flanders
	Jessica Shinnick, Centre of International Affairs, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands
15:40 – 16:15	**Keynote speaker**
	Teresa Sánchez Chaparro, Chair of the ENQA Recognition Working Group, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
	"Internationalisation of QA services in Europe and the impact on academic recognition"
16:20 – 16:40	**Special guest**
	Christine Bulliard-Marbach, National Councilor, President of the Commission on Science, Education and Culture CSECN, Switzerland
	"Higher education, quality assurance and lifelong learning from the policy makers' point of view"
16:45 – 17:05	**Conclusions of day 2**
	Martin Hauser, ret. Em. Professor (Universities Fribourg/CH and Bucharest/RO); expert working with UNESCO
	Maria Kelo, Director, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA); Member, EQAR Executive Board
17:05 – 17:15	**Closing words**
	Hassmik Tortian, Programme Specialist, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO
	Tatiana Trufanova, Project Assistant, National Accreditation Agency (NAA), Russia
	Christoph Grolimund, Director, Swiss agency of quality assurance and accreditation (AAQ), Switzerland
17:15	**End of works**

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