

2023 European Quality Assurance Forum

Internationalisation in a changing world. New trends and challenges for QA

Hosted by University of Aveiro, Portugal
23-25 November 2023

Call for contributions

Deadline 30 June 2023

INTRODUCTION

The 2023 European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) will take place **from 23 to 25 November 2023 in Aveiro, Portugal, hosted by University of Aveiro**. Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, EQAF 2023, entitled **'Internationalisation in a changing world. New trends and challenges for QA,'** will combine presentations of current developments in quality assurance (QA) with discussions on research, policy and practice. Contribution sessions will consist of paper presentations, practice presentation sessions and workshops. EQAF is organised by the European University Association (EUA), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), the European Students' Union (ESU) and the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE).

FORUM OBJECTIVES

Internationalisation has been a major trend in higher education for decades: cross-country mobility of students and academic staff has grown, cooperation between institutions and states has intensified, and, in general, transnational sharing of good practice in learning and teaching and research has increased. Both within and outside the EHEA, internationalisation brings opportunities and challenges for quality assurance. These range from the urgency of developing new and flexible approaches for transnational joint degrees to the need to enable and support more intense cooperation arrangements across very different higher education systems, as well as addressing new forms of higher education and mobility, such as micro-credentials or different forms of virtual mobility.

EQAF 2023 will explore QA policies and practices that support new forms of internationalisation, and invite the audience to reflect on how quality assurance can meet emerging needs and arising challenges in the sector. The Forum will address questions such as how QA can promote sustainability in transnational mobility and cooperation, if the ESG and other European tools are fit for the future, and how the European framework can connect and compare with quality assurance outside the EHEA. EQAF 2023 offers the opportunity to discuss how to innovate in quality assurance according to the different priorities of various stakeholders involved in the internationalisation of higher education, and how to internationalise quality assurance itself.

PARTICIPANTS

EQAF provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in QA. Specifically, the Forum is of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for QA, QA officers in higher education institutions, students, QA agency staff and researchers working on higher education or the QA field.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We invite contributions from QA practitioners in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies, students, and researchers in the field. EQAF is an excellent opportunity to present current practice or research, test new ideas and elicit feedback from colleagues and stakeholders. All

contributions are expected to stimulate discussion, thus enhancing peer-learning. Contributors should also bear in mind the diversity of participants at EQAF and should therefore aim to focus on the transferability of results or practices to different contexts in order to increase the relevance for the audience.

Contributions should focus on one of the following sub-topics:

- **Responding to European developments in international cooperation**

We welcome contributions focusing on the current status of internationalisation in Europe from the point of view of QA policies and practices. Examples of themes to be addressed include the ESG and their future in the EHEA, QA of European degrees, joint programmes, and European university alliances.

- **Innovation in internationalisation: the future of mobility and international cooperation**

We welcome contributions focusing on the impact of innovative approaches to international mobility and cooperation on quality assurance. Examples of themes to be addressed include micro-credentials, internationalisation of academic staff, the needs of various stakeholders such as students and employers. We also invite contributions discussing how to measure and address quality of internationalisation, and experiences on the internationalisation of quality assurance itself, such as engagement of international peers or cross-border external quality assurance.

- **European quality assurance in a global context**

We welcome contributions focusing on quality assurance cooperation, and on the role of QA in international cooperation beyond Europe. Examples of themes to be addressed include QA policies and practices supporting the growth of international cooperation in a responsible and sustainable way, the effects of globalisation on higher education and its quality assurance, and issues such as brain drain, forced migration and integration of migrant students.

The deadline to submit all contributions is **30 June 2023**. **Proposals received after this date will not be considered.**

Three types of contributions are possible: [paper](#), [workshop](#), and [practice](#) presentation.

We especially welcome proposals that reflect on the Forum objectives and provide insights into opportunities and challenges for quality assurance in an increasingly international context. We also welcome proposals that present different perspectives (e.g. a case study developed jointly by a university and a QA agency), and we strongly encourage cooperation with students when preparing proposals.

Selected contributions will be presented and discussed during parallel sessions, which are usually attended by 20–40 participants.

Please note that EQAF participants will be free to select which session to attend based on the **abstracts**, which will be published on the EQAF website and in the programme booklet. Therefore, we encourage all contributors to pay special attention to their abstracts, which must be concise, correspond to the content of their contribution and appeal to the participants. The organisers reserve the right to amend abstracts in order to ensure that they accurately reflect the content of the session.

We also encourage contributors to come up with a clear, succinct title for their proposed contribution, as this should help to capture the attention of Forum attendees.

SESSION TYPES

1. Paper sessions

[This type of contribution](#) may focus on one of the following:

- a) Research – an analysis of concepts or data related to quality assurance with discussion of the implications for policy or practice.
- b) Policy – a case study of a particular policy approach, taking into account the implications for practice or transferability to other contexts,

Papers will be presented during **45-minute-long Contributions sessions**. The presentation of the paper should last no longer than 15 minutes and will be followed by a discussion with the audience. The paper presentation may be combined with a practice presentation on a similar topic (see more details on practice presentations below). The author(s) should provide questions for discussion that stimulates debate with the audience at the conclusion of the paper.

Formal requirements

A paper proposal should:

- Identify the author(s), and, in the case of co-authored papers, indicate who will be responsible for presenting the paper at the Forum;
- Include a short biography for each author (up to 150 words);
- Include an abstract of 250 words maximum, plus a short description of the structure of the paper (for example, the table of contents);
- Identify the corresponding sub-topic;
- Provide two or three discussion questions for the session.

Please note that selected paper presentation authors will have to submit their full paper (maximum 3000 words) by 29 October 2023.

Evaluation criteria

The papers will be assessed by members of the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The paper is relevant both to the general objectives of the Forum and to the 2023 topic.
- The paper has a clear focus on the identified sub-topic and will be of interest to the Forum participants.
- The paper looks at transferability beyond the original context.

Please note that proposals that serve a commercial purpose will not be accepted.

2. Workshops

Workshops will provide participants with a structured exercise to enhance understanding of a specific topic or deliver hands-on practical advice on how to implement or use a specific QA tool. Each workshop will be led by the facilitator(s) in a **90-minute Contributions session**. Workshops have a high interactive component and should focus on participant activity rather than a presentation by the workshop facilitator(s).

Formal requirements

The proposal should:

- Identify the facilitator(s);
- Include a short biography of each facilitator (up to 150 words);
- Identify the corresponding sub-topic;
- Identify the target audience;
- Explain the main objectives / intended learning outcomes;
- Explain the activities to be carried out during the workshop;
- Specify any practical requirements (audio-visual requirements, room layout);
- Include an abstract of maximum 150 words.

Any supplementary documentation may be annexed. For instance, a workshop proposal on comparing different kinds of teaching evaluation questionnaires could include the questionnaires that will be discussed during the workshop.

We strongly encourage workshop facilitators to carefully anticipate the timing of their activities. They should also be prepared to adapt to the number of participants in the audience (e.g. adapt the number of sub-groups in case attendance is higher or lower than expected).

Evaluation criteria

The proposal will be assessed by members of the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The level and type of participant activity: workshops should sustain a lively debate and engage the audience in a hands-on activity;
- The topic and objectives of the workshop and their relevance to QA and the EQAF participants;
- Description of how the workshop will be run (activities proposed, how realistic it is to carry them out in the given timeframe, methodology to ensure audience participation etc.);
- The content of the workshop is in line with the proposed objectives/learning outcomes;

Please note that proposals that serve a commercial purpose will not be accepted.

3. Practice presentations

Practice presentations are expected to share and discuss experiences with a particular practice, approach or case study of QA practices at institutional, national or European level, analysing the success factors, challenges encountered, possible failures, and transferability to other contexts. Furthermore, they should discuss experiences in a self-reflective and critical way, test ideas for new quality assurance initiatives, and/or solicit feedback from participants.

Submissions of this kind should invite participants to reflect on whether lessons learnt from this practice or approach could be transferable to their contexts, allowing the audience to exchange on similar experiences and on how they compare to the presented practice. To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 7 minutes. Several successful proposals for practice presentations and papers on similar topics may be grouped together in one session, in which case the authors may be asked to adapt to the final outline of the session.

Formal requirements

The proposal should:

- Identify the presenter;
- Include a short biography of the presenter (up to 150 words);
- Identify the corresponding sub-topic;
- Include an abstract (100 words maximum);
- Be clearly and concisely written in a maximum of 500 words;
- Include some examples of questions for the audience;

Evaluation criteria

The proposal will be assessed by members of the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The proposal matches the Forum theme and one of the sub-topics;
- The proposal provides an engaging insight or perspective that will be of interest to the participants and foster discussion;
- For proposals presenting case examples – the proposal is critical and self-reflective and clearly identify the successes and obstacles in implementation and the lessons learnt;

- The proposal is not a mere presentation of an institutional practice or initiative but looks at transferability beyond the original context and invites for comments and feedback from the participants.

Please note that proposals that serve a commercial purpose will not be accepted.

PROCEDURE

All proposals should be submitted using the forms attached to this call, in **Word format**, by **30 June 2023** to eqaf@eua.eu. Please do not send a hard copy or a PDF file.

- [EQAF2023 paper submission form](#)
- [EQAF2023 workshop submission form](#)
- [EQAF2023 practice presentation submission form](#)

All contributions will be reviewed separately by two members of the EQAF Programme Committee. Attention is paid to avoid potential conflict of interest when allocating contributions for review. Please see Question 11 in the Frequently Asked Questions for further details of the review and selection process. Authors will be informed in September 2023 if their contribution has been selected for presentation at EQAF. Selected proposals may receive comments on how the proposal should be amended before presentation. Please note that due to limited resources no comments can be provided to unsuccessful proposals.

Unless the author indicates otherwise, all selected papers and presentations will be posted on the EQAF website after the event and the page will be assigned an ISSN number.

IMPORTANT: If you have submitted a proposal for a paper presentation or a workshop, please do NOT register for the Forum until the results of the selection process have been announced. Paper presenters and workshop facilitators will benefit from one reduced fee per contribution, which will be applied through a special registration process. This reduction does not apply to practice presentations.

All correspondence with authors will be by e-mail.

Frequently Asked Questions are included as an annex to this call.

CALENDAR

30 June 2023: Full proposals must be submitted in Word format using the forms attached to this call to eqaf@eua.eu. Proposals received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

September 2023: Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by e-mail to all authors. Accepted proposals may be accompanied by comments.

October 2023: Abstracts of accepted proposals will be published on the Forum website. Full papers need to be submitted by the selected paper presenters. Information regarding the day and time of sessions at the Forum will be provided closer to the event.

23 – 25 November 2023: the 2023 European Quality Assurance Forum takes place in Aveiro, Portugal.

Full text of presented papers will be posted on the EQAF website and allocated an ISSN number.

EQAF 2023 PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

ENQA:	Eva Fernandez de Labastida and Ulf Hedbjörk
ESU:	Pegi Pavletić and Ana Gvritshvili
EUA:	Maria Kelo and Geneviève Le Fort
EURASHE:	Gea van Zutven and Sylvie Navarre
Academic advisor:	Daniela Craciun

Annex 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This informal annex aims to provide indicative answers to frequently asked questions related to the EQAF call for contributions. For any further questions, please contact eqaf@eua.eu.

1. Are abstracts enough in themselves for a paper to be taken into account in the selection procedure?

Answer: Abstracts alone are not enough. The formal requirements for a paper, workshop or practice presentation proposal are listed under the sections “Paper sessions”, “Workshops” and ‘Practice presentations’ of the call for contributions. If you wish to submit a paper proposal, it must be a fully written paper of maximum 3000 words (references excluded), accompanied by an abstract of up to 150 words.

2. I would like to present the QA system in place in my institution. Should I choose to submit a paper or a workshop?

Answer: Workshops are based on interactivity with the audience (e.g., on the use of specific QA tools in different national and institutional contexts), and should not consist of one or a series of paper-like presentations. If you wish to collect feedback from other institutional contexts on, for example, a tool that you would like to implement within your institution, a workshop might be a good solution. Please be aware that a workshop lasts twice as long as a paper session and you will have to propose activities and sustain a lively discussion with your audience for 90 minutes.

If you wish to present a paper, please bear in mind that, if selected, your paper presentation should provide a substantial basis for sustaining a lively discussion among the audience. The paper should therefore be self-reflective and provide a basis for broadening perspectives beyond your own institutional approach.

3. May I co-author a paper with someone from outside my institution?

Answer: Proposals submitted jointly by two or several authors are very welcome. You are free to co-author it either with someone from your institution or someone from another institution/organisation. As an example, a joint paper presenting a reform from both points of view of a QA agency and of an institution, or on a QA procedure from the perspective of an institution and its students, would be highly welcome and of interest to the audience of the Forum.

4. Can authors selected under the call for contributions be funded to participate in EQAF?

Answer: The EQAF organisers do not fund participation. Should a proposal be accepted, the presenter’s institution often covers the Forum fee as well as travel to the event. However, one reduced fee will be granted to each selected paper and workshop at EQAF. This will be applied through a special registration process after the selection of papers and workshops is finalised.

5. I am based in an institution that is located outside Europe. May I still submit a proposal under the call for contributions?

Answer: Yes. Your proposal will be reviewed on the same basis and following the same criteria as other proposals (see call for contributions for the list of evaluation criteria for each category of proposal). Please also consider the answer to question 4 related to funding for attending EQAF.

6. I am a student. May I also participate in this call for contributions?

Answer: You are most welcome to submit a proposal. We strongly encourage student participation in EQAF and reduced registrations fees are available for students.

7. I do not work in the higher education area but would like to submit a contribution on quality assurance as a transversal topic. Would that be possible?

Answer: It depends on how your proposal will address quality assurance. EQAF specifically focuses on quality assurance in higher education and all proposals selected under the call for contributions should be related, in one way or another, to this specific field. It might therefore not be the right platform if you intend to discuss a generic quality assurance management tool.

8. Will all proposals selected under this call for contributions be published automatically?

Answer: During the Forum, PowerPoint presentations from workshop, paper and practice presentation sessions will be published on the Forum website. The full text of all papers will also be published, unless the authors requests otherwise. The webpage on which they are published will be assigned an ISSN number.

9. What must I do after my proposal is selected?

Answer: In September, you will be notified by email about whether your proposal has been accepted. This email will indicate how you should then proceed.

10. Are papers that have been already published elsewhere eligible under this call for contributions?

Answer: Yes. Please however indicate on your submission form where and when it was published. Your proposal should still fulfil the evaluation criteria as stated in the call for contributions, and be of relevance for the EQAF participants.

11. What is the evaluation procedure?

Answer: The evaluation procedure works as follows: each proposal is reviewed separately by two different members of the EQAF Programme Committee from different backgrounds, taking into account potential conflicts of interest and imperatives of impartiality. In practice this means that submissions from QA agencies are not reviewed by the ENQA representatives on the Programme Committee, contributions from universities are not reviewed by the EUA representatives on the Programme Committee and so forth. Reviewers are also asked to declare any conflict of interest when they receive their contributions to be reviewed and an alternative reviewer will be found if necessary. Each reviewer will give a score according to a standard scale for grading, and provide comments as necessary. The EQAF Programme Committee then meets to discuss and decide on the final selection based on scores given to contributions, the maximum number of proposals to be selected for each type of contribution, and the need to ensure a balanced programme.

12. Besides the evaluation criteria as announced in the call for contributions, are there other criteria that I should be aware of?

Answer: All proposals that fulfil the formal requirements as stated in the call for contributions will be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria. In addition, as is usual practice in academia, the reviewers will not evaluate any proposal that presents serious distortions to the basic principles for original contributions, i.e. papers with examples of plagiarism or copyright issues.

13. Will the organisers collect feedback from participants about my session?

Answer: The organisers do not collect feedback from participants about individual paper/workshop/practice presentation sessions. However, the presenters/facilitators are free to collect feedback from the participants of their session themselves.
