2020 European Quality Assurance Forum

Flexible higher education: implications for QA

Online event
10-13 November 2020

Draft programme *(26 October 2020)*

The annual European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance (QA).

The 2020 EQAF event, **"Flexible higher education: implications for QA"**, will offer online sessions about European policies and trends, research, and practical case examples related to the Forum theme and more generally about current developments in quality assurance.

The Forum will be of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for QA, QA officers in higher education institutions, students, QA agency staff and researchers working in higher education or the QA field.

Forum objectives

In responding to current societal changes, higher education institutions are increasingly inclusive and accommodate diverse student populations. In addition, as part of the move towards student-centred learning, institutions are expected to allow students to choose the pace, place and mode of delivery. These developments are leading to the emergence of more flexible learning paths and educational offers beyond traditional qualifications. The 15th edition of EQAF will explore if QA is fit for this dynamic and flexible environment and how it could better support higher education institutions in this transition and encourage them make the most of it.

Tuesday, 10 November

The event booklet with more information about the speakers and their contributions is now available.

All the sessions of the Forum are free of charge and open to all interested participants upon registration.

Pre-Forum sessions

Please consult the Forum website if you wish to register for the following pre-Forum sessions:

14.00-15.00[1]   Introduction to the European quality assurance framework

This pre-Forum session will provide an introduction to the quality assurance framework of the European Higher Education Area.

- Tia Loukkola, Director, Institutional Development, EUA
- Maria Kelo, Director, ENQA

Wednesday, 11 November

16.00-19.00   Meeting for student experts in quality assurance

This session is organised by ESU and separate registration information is available here.

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[1]All times are in CET

Thursday, 12 November

During both days of the event, Tia Loukkola, the chair, and Ronny Heintze, member of the EQAF Programme Committee, will guide participants through the event.

10.00-11.00   **Opening Session I: Flexible higher education is here**

This session will host three speakers in a discussion on the state of play and future perspectives regarding flexible higher education. How do higher education systems respond to the rapid transformation? And how should higher education institutions best prepare to face and implement the changes?

- What is flexible higher education? Reflections from a national case-study on flexible learning pathways
  - Leasa Weimer, Researcher, Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

- Supporting flexible learning pathways in higher education through national qualification frameworks and QA – findings from a UNESCO international survey
  - Michaela Martin, Programme specialist, IIEP-UNESCO

- Purposefully different approaches to flexible learning at scale: a Dublin City University case study
  - Conchúr Mac Lochlainn, Research Officer/PhD candidate, Dublin City University, Ireland

Chair: Jens Jungblut, EQAF Programme Committee

11.00-11.30   Break

11.30-13.00   **Session II: Internal quality assurance in emergency situations**

During this session, speakers will present examples of how the internal quality assurance community across Europe reacted during the Covid-19 crisis.

- Adaptations to internal quality assurance in Irish higher education institutions in response to Covid-19
  - Mairéad Boland, Senior Quality Officer, Quality and Qualifications Ireland

Chair: Joaquim Mourato, EQAF Programme Committee

- Exceptional times: main challenges to higher education internal quality assurance systems
  - Rodrigo Teixeira Lourenço, Pro-President for Quality Management and Assurance and Promotion of Academic Success, Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal, Portugal

Chair: Maria Kelo, Director, ENQA

- Unintended consequences – an exploration of how conducting internal quality reviews online has actually increased student engagement
  - Stef Black, Senior Development Consultant, sparqs - Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland, United Kingdom

Chair: Marieke Janssen, EQAF Programme Committee

- Quality assessment of distance learning and teaching at the University of Geneva

      o   Ahidoba de Franchi Mandscheff, Head of Quality, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Chair: Gohar Hovhannisyan, President, ESU

13.00-14.00	Networking lunch break

Several breakout rooms will be available for networking during lunchtime. The attendees will be able to enable their cameras and microphones, as well as communicate via chat.

14.00-15.00   **Session III: External quality assurance in emergency situations**

In this session, three quality assurance agencies will present their approaches to the crisis and the lessons learnt.

- Quality assurance in times of emergency remote teaching
  - Esther Huertas, Head of Quality Assurance Department, AQU Catalunya, Spain

- Maintaining the efficacy of external QA in a virtual world
  - Marie Gould, Head of Tertiary Education Monitoring and Review, Quality and Qualifications Ireland

- Extending the role of QA agencies in response to pandemic challenges
  - Nataliia Stukalo, Vice Head, National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, Ukraine

Chair: Rikke Warming**,** EQAF Programme Committee

Friday, 13 November

10.00-11.00   **Session IV: Micro-credentials paving the way to flexible higher education**

This session will discuss micro-credentials and open education resources: What is the present status? How can higher education institutions make use of them? And how is their recognition and quality assurance organised?

- State of play: micro-credentials in Europe
  - Elena Cirlan, Policy & Project Officer, Institutional Development, EUA

- Recognition, credentialisation and instructional design principles: How can we co-create academic QA standards in open and smart learning environments?
  - Florian Rampelt, Managing Director (AI Campus), Stifterverband, Germany

- Internal Quality Assurance to support high quality micro-credentials. Why do we not have enough contact tracers?
  - Anthony F. Camilleri

Chair: Jakub Grodecki, EQAF Programme Committee

11.00-11.30	Break

11.30-12.30   **Session V: Student engagement contributing to the development of quality culture**

This session explores the role of student engagement in developing quality culture and how to ensure that students have the appropriate competences to take part in this work.

- Quality assurance supporting the delivery of social competences – towards a quality culture. Based on the results of the DASCHE project.
  - o Jakub Brdulak, Rector's Proxy for Quality of Education, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

- Quality assurance and virtual programs. How to reach quality assurance without hampering student engagement?
  - o Agnieszka Pechcińska, Vice-President of the Students' Union, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

- Diversity of student reviewers: characteristics, experiences, and implications for quality assurance
  - o Liv Teresa Muth, Student reviewer, German QA Student Experts' Pool

Chair: Geneviève Le Fort, EQAF Programme Committee

12.30-13.30	Networking lunch break

Several breakout rooms will be available for networking during lunchtime. The attendees will be able to enable their cameras and microphones, as well as communicate via chat.

13.30-14.30   Closing Session VI: Quality assurance shaping change

This session will feature a discussion on the relationship quality assurance has with time: What role does time play in quality assurance? Do quality assurance practitioners ever discuss the temporal aspects of quality assurance processes?

- Anthony McClaran, Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's University, United Kingdom

- Oliver Vettori, Dean, Accreditations and Quality Management/Director Program Management & Teaching and Learning Affairs, WU Vienna, Austria

Chair: Aleksandar Šušnjar, EQAF Programme Committee

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European Quality Assurance Forum

http://bit.ly/EQAForum