

# 2024 European Quality Assurance Forum

## Enhancing education, research and societal engagement through quality assurance

Hosted by University of Twente, Netherlands  
14-16 November 2024

### Draft programme

The 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 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.

This year's Forum entitled "**Enhancing education, research and societal engagement through quality assurance**" will combine 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.

### Forum objectives

Connecting quality assurance efforts across teaching, research, and the third mission is crucial for universities to achieve their strategic objectives. This integrated approach can foster a well-rounded and impactful educational experience for students while advancing research and contributing meaningfully to society. However, addressing the interconnectedness of the three missions is becoming more challenging both for internal and external QA systems due to the wide variety of new developments and trends in higher education. These range from the need to base learning and teaching on research, to technological advancements including artificial intelligence, and the rise of projects envisaging the cooperation of different actors including non-academic stakeholders. EQAF 2024 will explore new policies, innovative methodologies and tools that can ensure a holistic approach to quality and quality assurance. It will also invite the audience to reflect on how quality assurance can meet needs and challenges arising at the interconnection of the three missions. In addition to researchers, practitioners and policy makers in quality assurance, this year's event will be of special interest to professionals responsible for quality of research and outreach functions at universities, and to staff with project management functions.

### Thursday 14 November

#### Special session

12.00-14.30 Meeting for student experts in quality assurance

*This is a stand-alone session organised by ESU. There is a separate registration process. Further details are available here.*

#### Pre-forum meetings

15.30-16.30 Introduction to the European quality assurance framework

*A pre-forum session providing an introduction to the quality assurance framework of the European Higher Education Area. Attendance is free for EQAF participants, however advance registration is required.*

Forum

15.00-17.00

Registration

**17.00-18.30****Opening Plenary: Quality across the missions**

This session will explore how QA can facilitate and promote cooperation across the three missions of universities to enhance the quality of higher education.

- Introduction to the Forum, Sylvie Navarre, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
- Welcome from the host
  - TBC
- Speaker
  - Derfel Owen, Director of Education Services, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
  - Chaired by TBC

18.30

Networking drinks

**Friday 15 November**

09.00-17.30

Registration

**09.30-10.30****Parallel Plenary Session I: Perspectives on QA**

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.

- A framework to connect all missions: the future of the ESG
  - TBC
- Assessing the quality of research policies and environments
  - Sophie Guillet, Head of the cooperation unit, Department for European and International Affairs, HCERES
- QA and the third mission
  - TBC

10.30-11.00

Coffee Break

**11.00-12.45****Papers, Workshops, Practice presentations – Contributions Session I**

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions or two practice presentations lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

12.45-14.15

Lunch

**14.15-15.00****Papers, Workshops, Practice presentations – Contributions Session II**

Participants will have a choice of attending a paper session or a practice presentation session lasting 45 minutes.

- 15.00-15.15 Move to the next session
- 15.15-16.15 Parallel Plenary Session II: Perspectives on QA**
- Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.
- QA and international cooperation
    - Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of Higher Education unit B, European Commission, DG EAC
  - QA and technology: challenges from AI
    - TBC
  - Managing projects and balancing time through QA
    - Oliver Vettori, Dean Accreditations & Quality Management, Lead Education ENGAGE.EU University Alliance
    - Heli Mattisen, Director, HAKA
- 16.15-16.45 Coffee break
- 16.45-17.45 **Community of practice**  
Free-format topical parallel sessions set up through the event app
- 18.45 Optional Wine Reception followed by Forum Dinner (separate fee)
- Saturday 16 November**
- 09.00-13.00 Registration
- 09.30-11.15 Papers, Workshops, Practice presentations – Contributions Session III**
- Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.
- 11.15-11.45 Coffee Break
- 11.45-13.00 Closing Plenary: Title**
- Ellen Hazelkorn, Professor Emerita, Technological University Dublin
  - Discussion with the chair and the audience
  - Ronny Heintze, Deputy Director of International Development, AQAS
  - Invitation to next year's EQAF
  - Wrap-up and thanks by Sylvie Navarre, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
  - Chaired by TBC
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch and departure of participants