Harmonisation for African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation 2

HAQAA 2 Initiative

EQA Training

14th June 2021

HAQAA2

Harmonisation, Accreditation and Quality Assurance in African Higher Education

This initiative is implemented on behalf of the European and African Union Commissions by:

OBREAL GLOBAL

DAAD — Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service

enqa.

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

QA Trends in Africa

- Consolidated agencies in national QA systems, seeking to adapt, improve and generally support HEIs with quality culture

- Countries without agencies/national QA systems, seeking to develop them

- Growth in regional associations and networks and their mandate for QA (CAMES, IUCEA, SARUA, EAQAN, SAQAN....)

- Regional communities with a higher education mandate and regional guidelines for QA (ex. East Africa)

- Budding regional harmonisation initiatives (EAC/SADC)

- African Union interest in harmonisation: Continental Strategy for Education (CESA)

Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF): Action Lines

- Facilitate collaboration, networking and capacity building between national and regional QA/accreditation agencies

- Development of African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance

- Promote the AQRM for Institutional evaluation

- Advance the development of an African Credit Transfer System

- Develop African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACRF)

- Develop African register (for QA agencies) and QA agency reviews

- Implement Addis Convention for Recognition

- *Set up Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency*

Red = Action covered under the HAQAA1/2
Pink = Supported by HAQAA2
Blue = Supported by TUNING Africa
Green: Supported by GIZ/ETF (SIFA)
Black = not yet developed
Purple = Supported by UNESCO

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HAQAA1 Initiative

- EU Service contract 2015-2018

- Implementing consortium: University of Barcelona (coordinator), AAU, DAAD, EUA and ENQA (complimentary partners, ensuring outreach, expertise)

Objective: "Contribute to and support the harmonisation of higher education programmes and the creation of a revitalised, distinctive, attractive and globally competitive African higher education space, through enhanced intra-African collaboration"

➢ Development of a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system at institutional level, national, regional and Pan-African continental level

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HAQAA1: Major Activities

1) DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR PAQAF:

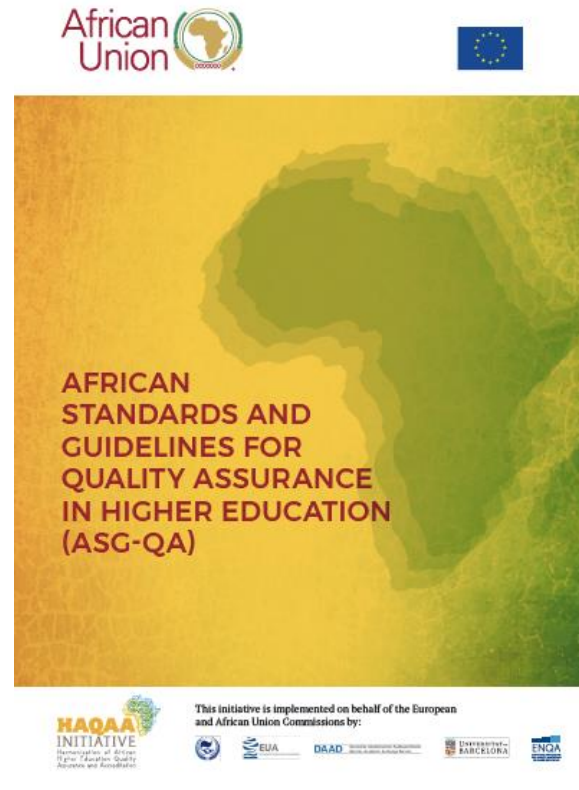*African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA)*

2) SUPPORTING A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR QA IN AFRICA
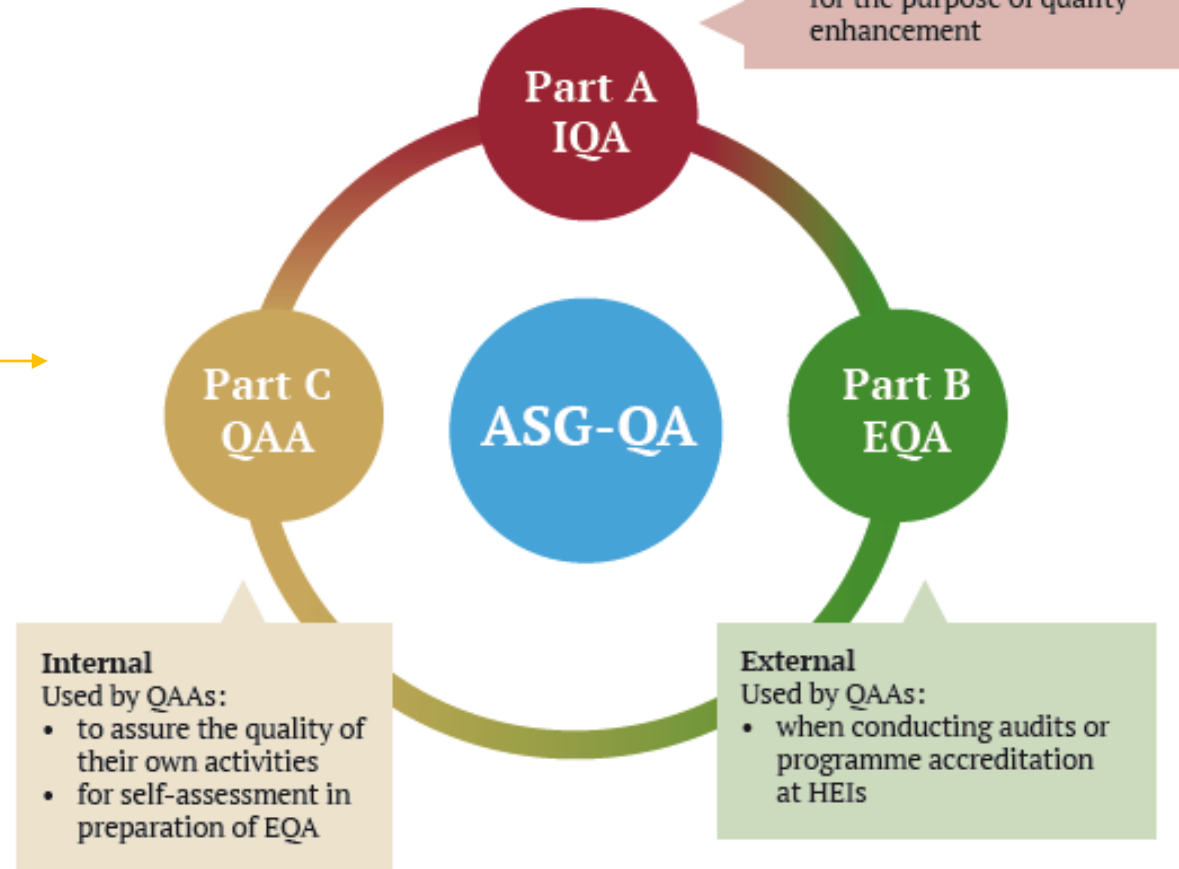
HAQAA continental Training Course

3) SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY CULTURE

Institutional evaluations employing the AQRM

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The ASG-QA

Impact of HAQAA1

- A major impulse for developing various Action Lines of PAQAF, in cooperation with African regional and national stakeholder organisations and with European support and input

- Created a forum for generating debate and understanding regarding continental objectives, and to promote the AU policy agenda

- Created stronger links across regions and language groups around the topic of QA, though much work is still to be done

Observations and challenges

- No "one size fits all" solution: different regional contexts and stages of development need to be considered

- Regional and national partners play a critical role and synergies need to be sought (HAQAA Advisory Board)

- Exchange and dialogue of higher education institutions and agencies / regulatory bodies is important for enhancing QA systems.

- Change is slow both at institutional and policy level = A long-term financial/human resource investment needs to be driven by African HEI and policy makers, addressing EQA and IQA coherently.

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HAQAA2

- EU Service contract 2019-2022

- Build upon, upscale and promote the results of HAQAA1

- Financed under the Pan-African Programme
  - Sister initiatives: Tuning Africa, Support for the AQRF, African Student and Alumni Forum (ASAF), Support for VET

- Implementing team: OBREAL Global Observatory (coordinator), AAU, DAAD, ENQA

- Supported by strategic implementing partners
  - CAMES (francophone Africa), IUCEA (East Africa), NAQAAE (Egypt/Northern Africa), SARUA (SADC), CNAQ (Lusophone Africa)

- Advisory Board of key regional and continental organisations (representing QA sector and HEI)

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HAQAA2 Objectives

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To improve the quality and harmonisation of African higher education and support students' employability and mobility across the continent.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Quality assurance culture in higher education institutions is further enhanced

Capacities of quality assurance agencies to implement African Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance is strengthened and cross-regional coordination are enhanced

Capacities of the AU in implementing the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) are strengthened

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HAQAA2 in brief

- Further promote the **uptake and usage of the ASG-QA** amongst quality assurance agencies and systems in Africa, via agency reviews and consultancy visits to countries that are developing agencies.

- Further promote the AQRM, in conjunction with the ASG-QA, as an African tool for **institutional quality assessment** and institutional quality improvement.

- Support the AUC in the set-up of **the African Continental Agency** (defining mandate, consulting stakeholders, drafting statutes....)

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HAQAA2 in brief (II)

Generally **promote the different action lines and tools of the PAQAF** via

1) the continuation of a continental Training Course on QA in Africa, with regional dimensions/regional chapters

2) online promotional tools and media campaigns

3) further investment in 'ambassadors' for HAQAA/PAQAF

4) seeking synergies with other donors and partners in this field

5) generally enhancing coordination with major partners in five African regions that are investing in QA and accreditation

6) supporting the sub-clusters of the Higher Education cluster of the **CESA** (Continental Education Strategy for Africa).

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Supporting IQA (1):
Institutions employing the AQRM

AQRM

o supports institutional quality culture and self-assessment in diverse institutions

o Complementary tool to the ASG-QA, Part A

o Voluntary, improvement-oriented - not a ranking tool

AQRM in the context of HAQAA2

o Online campaign for participating in the AQRM questionnaire, led by AAU
o AQRM review

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Supporting IQA (2):
HAQAA2 Training Courses

Strong support from strategic regional implementing partners

Utilising expertise across different African regions

Four cohorts

(linguistic and regional)

Online module: **Framework for harmonising higher education in Africa/'PAQAF'**

Regional face-to-face training workshops

Train-the-Trainers and Dissemination projects

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Some conclusions from HAQAA1: Continental Training Courses

- EQA should strengthen IQA

- General consensus on relevance of training activities for QA in Africa at the continental level.
  - Bringing together different African language groups
  - Sharing good practices, and fostering networking through inter linguistic groups

- Emerging interest of national QA bodies to integrate expertise from other African countries into their own national QA trainings and external quality procedures

- Diversity of QA systems in Africa (emerging vs. established): ASG-QA can help to create a common understanding of QA on the continent. They can also be a first reference for some emerging systems.

- "Ambassadors" for PAQAF generated, building on HAQAA for harmonisation activities.

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Supporting EQA
Training of QA agency staff, agency reviews and consultancy visits

Task Force ASG-QA

- Assess the review methodology and its impact on the 8 countries that applied it/tested it in 2018
- Development of a User's Guide for the ASG-QA

Policy Component: Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency

- Technical Working Group established to support the African Union Commission and its legal department
- Presentation of scenarios for the agency (mission, activities, governance model, funding..) and their feasibility
- Stakeholder consultation on scenarios
- Advice, support and recommendations regarding statutes, legal set-up, mandate

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Policy-Data Unit (PDU)

Data Collection is a Priority for the AUC, notably regarding CESA

HAQAA2 has one objective to support the AUC in the implementation of CESA via its Clusters.

Objectives

- Provide reliable data on the main priorities on Higher Education Policy from the perspective of African universities to feed the continental and international policy debate on higher education

- Anticipate, on the basis of adequate data collection, the main trends and needed reforms in African HEI.

- Enhance the role of AAU as the representative body of African HEIs and its centrality in the process of reform of the African HE at regional and continental levels.

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CESA HE in Focus
An HAQAA2 *Event Series*

- to engage the CESA Higher Education Cluster in the groundwork

- properly assess data collection needs

- engage the appropriate stakeholders and

- align the eventual PDU to the CESA framework.

- This event series will be part of the groundwork for the PDU's development and legitimacy, rooting it closely in the CESA process.

- Organize a series of online CESA HE Cluster events, with a common thread linked to data collection for policy making.

https://haqaa2.obsglob.org/cesa-in-focus/

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THANK YOU!

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