

AfriQAN Workshop Series



**Quality Assurance, teaching and
learning in the context of COVID 19**

Towards African continental collaboration

CONCEPT NOTE

Organised by



República de Moçambique
Ministério de Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior
Conselho Nacional de Avaliação de Qualidade do Ensino Superior
CNAQ



with the support of the HAQAA Initiative

HAQAA2
Harmonisation, Accreditation
and Quality Assurance in
African Higher Education

**African
Union**



**THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE**



Introduction

In a bid to build on its current quality assurance initiatives and experience, CNAQ, as the AfriQAN Presidency, is organizing two workshops on Quality Assurance in the context of COVID-19 in African higher education. The workshops will bring together personnel of national and regional regulatory bodies, Quality Assurance Agencies (QAA) and higher education institutions. They will both proceed and follow up upon the AfriQAN annual conference in October 2021.

The aims of the workshops are as follows:

- to provide opportunities to share experiences on how QA agencies and institutions are adapting their teaching, learning, research and quality assurance processes during the current pandemic caused by COVID-19.
- to pave the way for a more comprehensive collaboration that will significantly contribute to strengthening the capacity of quality assurance agencies and institutions to foster a quality culture within their day-to-day operations.
- To promote current tools, frameworks and projects that support quality assurance harmonization and alignment at the continental level in Africa
- To discuss and debate further activities that AfriQAN can undertake in the next year, as part of its work plan, to support members

Context

The African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) was set up by the AAU in 2007 as a regional umbrella organization for quality assurance agencies in Africa, aimed at providing information to quality assurance practitioners on the continent on the current thinking on the subject. The Quality Assurance Unit of the AAU currently serves as the Secretariat for AfriQAN. The establishment of AfriQAN is an acknowledgement of the importance of establishing robust quality assurance systems as necessary instruments for addressing Africa's higher education challenges.

AfriQAN is committed to the assurance and enhancement of quality higher education in Africa through strengthening the work of quality assurance bodies and other associated organizations with similar objectives. It promotes a culture of quality assurance in Higher Education in Africa by providing its Members with comprehensive services and networking opportunities.

As part of its action plan under the current presidency of the association, CNAQ is proposing two workshops on Quality Assurance, teaching and learning in the context of COVID-19, to bring together higher education institutions, quality assurance agencies and the national and regional regulatory boards of higher education. These workshops would both precede and follow up upon the annual AfriQAN conference, scheduled for October 2021.

First Workshop: Theme

African HEIs have been adversely affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have inevitably introduced changes in the way the institutions conduct their academic business. Challenged by this crisis, creative and innovative ways were adopted by the regulatory agencies, quality assurance agencies and HEIs to revise their approaches and continue their academic calendars and to ensure quality.

This workshop intends to be a forum for sharing experiences on how HEIs, national and regional regulatory boards and quality assurance agencies are coping with their teaching and learning and with quality assurance processes during the current crisis. Institutional, national, and regional experiences will be analyzed in the light of broader discussions and experiences in Africa and in other continents. Quality assurance of distance learning, blended e-learning and other innovative ways of teaching and learning using information and communication technology will be discussed as the main issues in post-pandemic higher education. Special emphasis will be placed in the facilitation of communication and exchange of practices between different regions and linguistic groups across Africa.

It will also be part of the discussion on how transformation in teaching and learning in higher education is also transforming the way internal and external quality assurance mechanisms are implemented in the HEIs, countries and regions. This will undoubtedly be contributing to supporting and strengthening the capacity of HEIs for socioeconomic development of Africa.

The first workshop is planned for 16th September 2021, followed by the 2021 Annual Conference and the General Assembly of AfriQAN slated for October 2021. A follow-up workshop to the General Conference will be held at the end of November/early December.

The annual Conference is traditionally organized by AfriQAN in partnership with AAU and GUNI-Africa within the framework of the International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa (ICQAHEA). This year, the 2 workshops and the annual Conference are also supported by the HAQAA2 initiative, funded by the European Commission.

The objectives of the 2021

Workshop Series are to:

- share, at continental level in Africa, information on good practices and new developments in the field of quality assurance in higher education in the context of COVID-19;
- Share identified good practices in quality assurance leadership (what makes a good quality assurance practitioner);
- Strengthen the professional capacity of Quality Assurance Agencies personnel and Quality Assurance units in universities;
- Promote dialogue and cooperation across African regions and linguistic groups on these topics, a distinct added value of the AfriQAN network; and
- Assist in the dissemination of continental tools and framework related to PAQAF, the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework.
- Offer a means to prime the AfriQAN annual conference with interactive discussions and subsequently follow-up on the annual conference, to ensure that certain commitments and topics are taken forward.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes from the workshops include:

1. Strengthened quality assurance capacity of quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.
2. Common knowledge of good practices and recent developments across the African continent on quality assurance in higher education in the context of COVID-19.
3. Promotion of QA culture among quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.
4. Dissemination of tools related to the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework, such as the ASG-QA, which HAQAA2 and other related initiatives are supporting.
5. Reinforced/ re-launched role for AfriQAN, as a pan-Africa network bringing together QA agencies and practitioners, in cooperation with other relevant regional and linguistic networks.

Workshop resource persons

The workshop resource persons have been identified from the pool of African Experts in quality assurance and those trained during HAQAA1 and HAQAA2 initiative (HAQAA 'Ambassadors'). They support the preparation of the online training content and serve as facilitators during the workshops. The overall programming of the workshop is done in collaboration between the AfriQAN Secretariat at AAU and the Presidency of AfriQAN, in consultation with partners.

Target audience:

Thus, the workshops will bring together:

- Practitioners from African quality assurance agencies.
- Representatives of higher education quality assurance units .
- Other stakeholders interested in higher education in Africa.
- Other relevant regional and linguistic networks for Quality Assurance in Africa.

Workshop modalities

Due to COVID-19 Situation, the workshops will be held virtually through a dedicated online platform.

Meeting Administrative and Technical Support

CNAQ and the AfriQAN Secretariat will provide the administrative support for the workshops and assist in all technical issues to ensure meeting success.

Simultaneous translation of the proceedings in three languages (English, French and Portuguese).

Costs

The costs for the workshops and conference will be covered by financial assistance from HAQAA2.

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