

# Harmonisation for African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation 2

HAQAA 2 Initiative



Harmonisation of African  
Higher Education Quality  
Assurance and Accreditation

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

# How to analyse a self- assessment report

- What is a self-assessment report? What's it for and why is it important?
- Analysing a SAR at different stages of the review
- Explanation of the group work

# What is a SAR? Why is it so important?



The Self Assessment Report is the result of the agencies Self Assessment against the ASG standards (it concludes the internal assessment and starts the external assessment)



The SAR allows the agency to demonstrate how it aligns with ASG standards and reflects on them



The SAR provides key information on how principles are met



Key evidence documents are annexes to the SAR

# The starting point: desk-based analysis

- Leave behind your own baggage when reading a SAR – this is about analysing the agency's performance against the ASG in its context, not in relation to any other agency
- The central role of the ASG; the need to know and understand the principles in order to successfully analyse a SAR
- Familiarise yourself with the whole document, not just the sections for which you are responsible
- Take notes as you read – think about the categories of questions that are arising - are they to do with clarification? Are they related to evidence (or lack of it) - what additional documents might you need?
- When these questions be can be addressed – before, in the coordination meeting or during the visit?
- Are there questions that lead to exploration of a theme or principle in more depth? Note any areas where you think there might be overlap between your responsibilities and those of others
- View this initial work as a living document that you can revise and update as the review progresses (makes report-writing easier!)



# Discussions with your fellow panel members

- Annotate the SAR: find your own way of referencing the SAR so that you know where to find information quickly when needed (some people use sticky notes or colour coding, for example)
- Come to any preparatory meeting ready to discuss the SAR as a whole and, in particular, your areas of responsibility with your colleagues
- Be prepared to listen to and discuss views on the SAR that differ from your own – how do the ASG standards impact on such discussions?
- Are there any tentative recommendations or commendations that are emerging at this point that can be explored during the site visit?



## At the site visit

- Be really familiar with SAR so that it can be referred to with confidence during interviews
- Be prepared to revise your original views of the SAR as you gather more evidence – are new avenues for exploration emerging? Can any concerns be laid to rest?
- How is the SAR and the additional evidence leading you to conclusions?





Questions so  
far?

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# Analysing a SAR in practice





# Group work

## Cases

- Standard B2: Designing external QA mechanisms fit for purpose
- Standard C4: Independence of QAA

## Grouping

- 2 francophone and 2 anglophone groups
- All groups will look at both standards

## Structure

- Each group nominate a speaker and a notetaker
- A facilitator will be present to provide support if needed

## Time

- 25 minutes group work
- 15 minutes plenary feedback

# What should the groups do?

## Consider...

- Further information: additional documents or questions?
- Formulate questions
- Who do you need to meet?

## Be prepared to

- Feedback one key point
- One additional document
- Two key questions & who you would meet

# Feedback

- Each group should present its main conclusion or thoughts following the analysis;
- Its top two questions, and who it would like to meet to ask those questions
- One additional document, if any

# Plenary

- Questions
- Thoughts
- Discussion





THANK YOU!



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