



EQA in Africa: where are we standing now and where do we want to be?

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Outline of the Presentation

- ❖ **What is Africa's Vision regarding QA in HE?**
- ❖ **General Overview of EQA in Africa**
- ❖ **Regional Trends: QA Structures and Approaches and how this relate to what is happening in Mozambique**
- ❖ **Implications for PAQAF and for Developing common QA Tools and Approaches**

What is Africa's Vision?

- **Starting point**

- Not every African country has established QA mechanisms
- Diverse understanding and practices on QA
- Low trust and confidence among HEIs and countries – limitation of mutual recognition and mobility

What is Africa's Vision?

- The African Union identified quality in higher education as focus in the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015)
- Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025)
- **Desired result** – harmonized HE system (enhance trust and confidence; ensure quality, relevance and sustainability of HE system in Africa)

Legal Framework

- Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) needed to establish harmonized QA practices in the continent
- PAQAF sets the principles and rules of engagement
- For the appropriate functioning of PAQAF, the continent will need:
 - **enhanced national and regional agencies for QA**
 - **built a common understanding and harmonized QA practices in the continent through training**
 - **developed continental standards for quality assurance**
 - **African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM)**
 - **Continental Accreditation Agency for higher education to operationalize PAQAF**

National Agencies for QA in HE in Africa

- QA is taken here to mean all activities that are aimed at ensuring that the process and product of an educational system are fit for purpose (UNESCO, 1989)
- Minimum standards for input, process, output and outcomes of an educational system
- QA has components internal and external to the institution
- Internal quality assurance includes self-assessment and internal audits
- External quality assurance includes external validation of internal quality assurance

National Agencies for QA in HE in Africa

- A broad survey of National Quality Assurance Agencies carried by Okebukola and Fonteyne, 2014 shows that 21 African countries have legally-established agencies
- Over half of the 34 others are far advanced in the process of establishing such agencies
- The activities of these agencies range from setting minimum standards for quality assurance, assessment of the standards, audits to accreditation
- Remarkable similarities on the accreditation process

National Agencies for QA in HE in Africa

Similarities:

- Accreditation process based on minimum standards, self-assessment, peer review, sites visits, decision and follow-up
- Peer reviewers are subject experts including international experts
- Funding mainly by government
- Accreditation labels range from denied to provisional to full accreditation

National and Regional Agencies for QA in HE in Africa

Differences:

- Terminology/ Definition
- Governance structures

Regional Agencies for QA in HE in Africa

- **African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES)**
 - sets standards and assess institutions directly
- **Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)**
 - sets sub-regional standards with stakeholders, leaving quality assurance to the national agencies who implement the sub regional standards along national ones
- **The Council for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Arab countries**
- **SADC (still coming)**

Regional Networks for QA in HE in Africa

- **The Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE)**
- **Southern Africa Quality Assurance Network (SAQAN)**

Continental Networks for QA in HE in Africa

- **African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN)**
 - Facilitating and promoting role

Continental Accreditation Agency for HE

- **A Pan-African QA and Accreditation Agency**
General mandate:

- ❖ **To coordinate, promote, and facilitate the harmonization of higher education, QA and accreditation systems within, across, to and from Africa as well as being the lead Agency of the continent in QA, quality enhancement and accreditation**

Implications for PAQAF and for Developing common QA Tools and Approaches

- **Facilitate collaboration and networking between national QA and accreditation agencies and regional bodies and networks**
- **Empower national and regional quality assurance agencies to conduct accreditation according to common continental standards and guidelines**
- **Encourage institutions as well as QA agencies to strive for excellence**

Fim

Muito obrigado pela atenção dispensada

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