HAQAA Initiatiave:

Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Technical Meeting to prepare the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) institutional evaluations

Accra, 28-29 March 2017
Zeineb Mazouz, University of Barcelona

Implementing consortium

- *EU Service contract 2015-2018*
- University of Barcelona (Coordinator)
- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
- European University Association (EUA)

HAQAA Initiative: Objectives

"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

= Boost the *'The Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation System' (PAQAF)*

General Approach of HAQAA

- Enhancing <u>continental</u> collaboration in quality assurance across and between <u>regional</u> networks

- Linking together/building upon regional initiatives and political priorities

- Capacity Building for both <u>internal</u> and <u>external</u> QA at the institutional, national and regional level

- Promoting good practices/ sharing experiences in a <u>multilateral way</u>: *Europe-Africa, Africa-Africa, Africa - other world regions*

Methodology

- Rooted in not only African stakeholder buy-in but also African *oganisational capacity* to sustain the endeavour
  - 'Africa Centre for Capacity Development in QA' (housed by **AAU**)
  - Advisory Board with key regional bodies, networks, associations
- Maximize impact = **synergies** with other current African QA-related initiatives, especially those that are EU and AUC supported
  - Tuning, Intra-Africa Mobility, World Bank, UNESCO/Recognition conventions….
- Engaging countries, organisations and institutions that have participated less frequently in African continental activities

Phases and activities (1)

- ***Phase 1: Developing a common understanding on QA in Africa (January 2016 – June 2017)***
  - Set up of the Online African QA Platform: www.aau.org/haqaa
  - Consolidation of an <u>expert database</u> on QA in Africa
  - Mapping report on current/existing African QA 'Standards and Guidelines' (national and regional)
  - Training Course for a "common QA language", targeting key African QA disseminators
    (all countries)

Training Course on a Common Language for QA in Africa

- The Training Course brings together experts representing QA agencies and ministries from across all five African regions.

- 2 cohorts: Anglophone and Francophone that had a first, one-week '*presence*' phase in Belgium and Germany respectively in October and November 2016.

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Training Course on a Common Language for QA in Africa

The Training Course will continue to its second and third phases in 2017 with:

Online Phase: ongoing → April

- DAAD to animate a practice sharing platform with discussion groups.
- Participants to elaborate personal action plans.

2nd Presential Phase: 30 May-02 June

- For both cohorts as a pre-event of the AAU General Conference
- Topic: QA 'landscape' in Africa and the roles of different actors and stakeholders in taking forward the African continental agenda

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Phases and activities (2)

- ***Phase 2: Towards a Pan African QA and Accreditation System: Developing African Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance (ASG-QA) and reinforcing institutional "internal" QA (June 2016 – Sept 2017)***
  - Technical Working Group to develop the ASG-QA
  - Needs Assessment and Online consultation for the ASG-QA
  - Continental endorsement workshop (second half 2017)

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Technical Working Group (TWG) for the development of ASG-QA

- 1st Meeting in Namibia – September 2016
- Presentation and discussion of the Template/Draft Structure to the Advisory Board Meeting. Structure will indicate the rationale for developing the ASG-QA, their intended purpose and the elements to be included.
- February, 2017: Online consultation process on draft structure

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Technical Working Group for the development of the ASG-QA

1st Draft

- 4 languages
- End of April-Beg of May
- To be presented at the AAU Conference (5-9 June 2017)

2nd Draft

- Development and,
- Consultation Workshop late August (venue TBD)

Final Draft

- To be presented at the EU-Africa Summit in November (exact date and venue TBD)

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Phases and activites (3)

- ***Phase 3: Consolidating 'quality culture' in Africa (February 2017 – April 2018)***
  - Visits to select African QA agencies/bodies, promoting the uptake and testing of the ASG-QA – 'Consultancy visits' and 'agency reviews'
  - QA agency staff development workshop
  - Institutional capacity building through 15 institutional evaluations (AQRM) – *call forthcoming*

Institutional evaluations employing the AQRM

- One of the HAQAA objectives is to support institutional quality culture and self-assessment.

- AQRM: self-assessment tool

- Experts will visit selected universities (15) to verify provided data

Institutional evaluations employing the AQRM

S/No.	Activity	Deadline/Timeline
1.	Selection and Notification to Institutions (15) and Experts (teams of 3, with one European and 2 Africans)	**30 January 2017**
2.	Technical Meeting of AQRM Experts & 30 Representatives of selected universities in Accra // Training on how to conduct self-assessment/employ AQRM	**28-29 March 2017**
3.	Completion of AQRM Questionnaire online by 15 selected universities	**03-21 April 2017**
4.	Institutional Site Visits to the 15 universities for information verification	**19-30 June 2017**

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Phases and activities (4)

- ***Phase 4: Sustainability and further development of the Pan African QA and Accreditation System (February 2018 – September 2018)***
  - Endorsement of external review model for QA agencies in Africa (proposed by Technical Working Group)
  - Regional conference, reinforcing 'ICQAHEA/AQAF' as an annual continental forum
  - Consolidation of African QA Platform/Database and Capacity Development Centre as major continental tools and structures

Three (3) Major Activities for 2017

Technical Working Group (TWG) for the development of African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA)

Training Course on a Common Language for QA in Africa

Institutional evaluations employing the AQRM

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HAQAA: How can you participate?

- Register in the <u>Africa QA Platform</u> and <u>Expert Database</u> (run by AAU): www.aau.org/haqaa
  - Updates on PAQAF and related initiatives
  - Opportunity to be consulted on HAQAA outputs (ASG-QA..)
  - Possibilities to be contacted for peer reviews, evaluations and other QA realted activities
  - Neworking potential
- Find out who your national contact point is
- Call for proposals for institutional evaluations *(October 2016)*
- Agency reviews and consultancy visits *(starting second half 2017)*

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