



12th European Quality Assurance Forum

Responsible QA: committing to impact

Hosted by the University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia

23-25 November 2017

Draft programme (6 November 2017)

The European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance (QA). Specifically, the Forum will be of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for QA, QA officers in higher education institutions, students, QA agency staff and researchers working on higher education or the QA field.

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2017 EQAF, entitled '**Responsible QA: committing to impact**', will combine practice-oriented or research-based discussions that will take place in the paper sessions and workshops with presentations of current developments in quality assurance. The Forum provides an opportunity for participants to update their knowledge and extend their professional development.

Forum objectives

QA, whether aiming at accountability or enhancement, needs to be carried out in a transparent and responsible manner. This means finding ways of responding to the needs and interests of internal and external stakeholders. This year's Forum will explore how this can be done in practice, examining issues such as communication, ethics and the concept of change in QA.

Thursday 23 November

Pre-forum meeting

16.00-16.45 Meeting for key players

Keynote speakers, parallel plenary speakers, paper and workshop presenters and chairs are invited to attend this pre-conference meeting.

Forum

15.00-18.30 Registration

17.00-17.15 **Official Opening**

- Introduction to the Forum
 - Juan Carlos Hernandez Buades, Chair, EQAF Steering Committee
- Welcome from the host
 - Indriķis Muižnieks, Rector, University of Latvia
 - Andrejs Rauhvargers, Director, Latvian Higher Education Quality Agency



17.15-18.30

Plenary Session I: Are we making a difference?

QA systems have a responsibility to make a difference to higher education. But are we really making a difference, and is it the difference we want? This session will explore the topic of organisational change and transformation, and the role that QA plays in that.

- Oliver Vettori, Vienna University of Economics and Business
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Chaired by Tina Harrison, EQAF Steering Committee

18.30

Welcome Reception

Friday 24 November

09.00-17.30

Registration

09.30-10.45

Plenary Session II: Selling the difference

The ESG 2015 put an emphasis on the provision of reliable information, while institutions are developing marketing strategies to shape their public profile. This panel discussion will examine the relationship between the institutional actors responsible for QA and communication, exploring how they best support each other to ensure responsible communication with the outside world and whether the information provided meets the needs and expectations of students.

- Marta Lopera, Pompeu Fabra University
- Jan Withofs, University Colleges Leuven-Limburg
- Janet Bohrer, London South Bank University
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Chaired by Christoph Grolimund, ENQA

10.45-11.15

Coffee Break

11.15-13.00

Papers and Workshops – Session I

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

13.00-14.30

Lunch

14.30-15.45

Parallel Plenary Session I: Perspectives on QA

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.

- New directions in the Bologna Process: focus on learning & teaching
 - Caroline Sundberg, ESU
 - Michael Gaebel, EUA
 - Chaired by Michal Karpíšek, EURASHE



- QA and recognition: current practices and challenges
 - Allan Bruun Pedersen, Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education
 - Teresa Sánchez Chaparro, Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur
 - Chaired by Barbara Michalk, HRK
- EQAR's future strategy and insights from Register Committee decisions
 - Karl Dittrich, EQAR
 - Colin Tück, EQAR
 - Chaired by Blazhe Todorovski, EQAF Steering Committee

15.45-16.15 Coffee Break

16.15-17.30 Parallel Plenary Session II: Perspectives on QA

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.

- ESG 2015: policy and practice
 - Adam Gajek, ESU
 - Fernando Galán, EURASHE
 - Maria Kelo, ENQA
 - Tia Loukkola, EUA (moderator)
- Reinforcing pillars for quality culture development: a path analytic model
 - Guy Bendermacher, Maastricht University
 - Chaired by Orla Lynch, QQI
- Global perspectives on regional cooperation in QA
 - Rispa Odongo, Initiative for harmonisation of African higher education quality assurance and accreditation
 - Zita Mohd Fahmi, European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region Project
 - Chaired by Paula Ranne, EQAF Steering Committee

19.30 Optional Forum Dinner (separate fee)

Saturday 25 November

09.00-13.00 Registration

09.30-11.15 Papers and Workshops – Session II

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

11.15-11.45 Coffee Break



11.45-13.00

Plenary Session III: QA and ethics

In order to ensure credibility and legitimacy, QA actors must take into account the need to ensure that all action is ethical. This session will give an overview of the issues currently being covered by research into ethics in the field of higher education and QA and explore the direction that this debate may take in the future.

- Maarja Beerkens, Leiden University
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Invitation to next year's EQAF
- Wrap-up and thanks by Juan Carlos Hernandez Buades, Chair, EQAF Steering Committee
- Chaired by Jacques Lanarès, University of Lausanne

13.00-14.30

Lunch and departure of participants