



12th European Quality Assurance Forum

Responsible QA: committing to impact

Hosted by the University of Latvia
Riga, Latvia

23-25 November 2017

Draft programme (1 September 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

15.00-17.00 Registration

17.00-17.15 **Official Opening**

- Introduction to the Forum
 - Juan Carlos Hernandez Buades, Chair, EQAF Steering Committee
- Welcome from the host



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

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 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

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.

- Global perspectives on regional cooperation in QA
 - Rispa Odongo, HAQAA Initiative
- Lessons learnt from the EQUIP project
 - Tia Loukkola, EUA
 - Anna Gover, EUA
- TBC



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.

- Insights from EQAR's decisions and its future strategy
 - Karl Dittrich, EQAR
 - Colin Tück, EQAR
- New directions in the Bologna Process: focus on learning & teaching
 - Michael Gaebel, EUA
- TBC

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

13.00-14.30

Lunch and departure of participants