HAQAA Initiative: Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Overview, activities and work plan
Background

• **Africa-EU Strategic Partnership** – Focus on quality assurance and accreditation
  – *Exploring Quality Assurance through the Africa-EU Partnership* Conference in Libreville, Gabon in May 2013
  – African Union political endorsement: Roadmap 2014-2017 as adopted by the 4th EU-Africa Summit

• **Commitment to development of Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF)**
  – study on PAQAF (financed by the EU), validated at a continental workshop in Accra, Ghana in July 2015.

• **Ongoing work of UNESCO to facilitate the ratification of the Addis Ababa Convention**
HAQAA Initiative

• EU Service contract 2015-2018
• Implementing consortium: University of Barcelona, AAU, DAAD, EUA and ENQA (complimentary, outreach, expertise)

Objective: “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
Methodology

• Capacity Building for both **internal and external QA** at the institutional, national and regional level (multi-level)

• Enhancing continental collaboration in quality assurance across and between **regional networks**
  — Role of Advisory Board**

• Maximize impact = **synergies** with other current African QA-related initiatives (Tuning, AQRF, AfriQAN...)

• Training and knowledge transfer within and across Africa and also with Europe (not one way)

• 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)**
  - 2 Training Courses for a “common QA language”, targeting key African QA stakeholders and disseminators
  - Set up of the Online African QA Platform: [www.aau.org/haqaa](http://www.aau.org/haqaa)
  - Consolidation of an expert network on QA in Africa, spanning diverse key actors and stakeholders, and aggregating already exiting expert networks/databases for QA
  - Mapping report on current/existing African QA ‘Standards and Guidelines’ (National level, East and West Africa)
Phases and activities (2)

• **Phase 2: Towards a Pan African QA and Accreditation System: Developing African Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance (ASG) (June 2016 – October 2017)**
  
  • Technical Working Group to develop the ASG, supported by the Advisory Board
  
  • Online consultation for the ASG
  
  • Continental endorsement workshop
Phases and activities (3)

• **Phase 3: Consolidating ‘quality culture’ in Africa (February 2017 – April 2018)**
  – QA body support
    • Visits to select African QA agencies/bodies, promoting the uptake and testing of the ASG – ‘Consultancy visits’ and ‘agency reviews’
    • QA agency staff development workshop
  – Institutional quality culture support
    • Promoting AQRF as a tool for self-evaluation (15 evaluations conducted)
    • Training workshop(s) on institutional self-assessment, rooted in ASG
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 ‘AQAF’ as an annual continental forum
  - Consolidation of African QA Platform/Database and Capacity Development Centre as major continental tools and structures
Implementing team

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