



## 2019 European Quality Assurance Forum

### Supporting societal engagement of higher education

Hosted by TU Berlin  
21-23 November 2019

*Draft programme (updated 26 June 2019)*

The European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance. 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 2019 EQAF, entitled '**Supporting societal engagement of higher education**', 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**

Societal demands on higher education are changing and becoming more complex. Higher education institutions need to foster academic excellence in research, drive innovation and ensure through high-quality teaching that graduates have the knowledge and skills that prepare them for their future careers and role as active citizens. To do this successfully, institutions are expected to engage internal and external stakeholders, and entertain partnerships with industry actors, their local and regional environment, and often in collaboration with other higher education institutions. This year's EQAF will explore how external and internal quality assurance processes can support engaged higher education institutions in developing activities that meet the expectations and needs of all stakeholders and demonstrate their value to society.

#### **Thursday 21 November**

##### Pre-forum meetings

15.30-16.30 Introduction to the European quality assurance framework

*A pre-forum session providing an introduction to the quality assurance framework of the European Higher Education Area. Attendance is free for EQAF participants, however advance registration is required.*

16.00-16.30 Meeting for key players

*A pre-forum briefing for keynote speakers, parallel plenary speakers, paper and workshop presenters and chairs.*



## Forum

15.00-17.00

Registration

**17.00-17.15**

### **Official Opening**

- Introduction to the Forum, Ronny Heintze, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
- Welcome from the host

**17.15-18.30**

### **Plenary Session I: Strengthening universities' position in society**

A keynote presentation on the societal dimension of higher education: How do and can higher education institutions define their role in society? And what kind of strategies and activities can universities implement that demonstrate their contribution to society? A responding comment will bring in the QA perspective on these matters.

- Peter Maassen, University of Oslo, Norway
- Fiona Crozier, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom
- Discussion with the chair and the audience

18.30

Networking Reception

## **Friday 22 November**

09.00-17.30

Registration

**09.30-10.45**

### **Plenary Session II: The value of stakeholder input**

A panel of diverse stakeholders will explore what it means to be a stakeholder in higher education and how different stakeholder groups can contribute to development of higher education. Questions explored will include whether all stakeholder groups should be considered as equally relevant and central for universities to achieve their objectives and ensure the quality of their activities.

- Karin Åmossa, European Trade Union Committee for Education
- Blaženka Divjak, Croatian Ministry of Science and Education
- Gohar Hovhannisyan, European Students' Union
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Practical information on breakout sessions

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. Two of the sessions will present various projects or initiatives in QA, while the third provides an opportunity for world-café-style discussions across various tables.

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. Two of the sessions will present various projects or initiatives in QA, while the third provides an opportunity for world-café-style discussions across various tables.

- Translating the ESG into practice: evidence from external quality assurance reports
  - Maria Manatos, Ghent University, Belgium
- Trends in internal and external quality assurance: a global study
  - Susanna Karakhanyan, International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)
- World-café

19.30

Optional Forum Dinner (separate fee)

**Saturday 23 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: The scope of QA**

This session explores whether there are and should be limitations to the reach of QA or whether a more encompassing QA would be beneficial to higher education institutions and society.

- Sokratis Katsikas, Open University of Cyprus
- Further speakers TBC
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Invitation to next year's EQAF
- Wrap-up and thanks by Ronny Heintze, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee

13.00-14.30 Lunch and departure of participants