

2022 European Quality Assurance Forum

Shaping or sharing? QA in a value-driven EHEA

Hosted by West University of Timisoara, Romania
17-19 November 2022

Draft programme

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) in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and beyond. 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 in higher education or the QA field.

This year's Forum, "Shaping or sharing? QA in a value-driven EHEA", will combine sessions about European policies and trends, research and practical case examples related to the Forum theme and more generally about current developments in QA.

Forum objectives

Shared values of democratic higher education systems – such as academic freedom, institutional autonomy, student participation in governance of higher education institutions, inclusion and equity – are at the core of the EHEA. These values should consolidate and unite higher education systems and foster international cooperation and mobility, while allowing the institutions to independently develop their own goals. Recent societal challenges have emphasised the need for policy makers, higher education institutions and QA agencies to continuously discuss these values and ensure that they are upheld, protected and promoted across the EHEA.

The 2022 EQAF will offer an occasion to discuss the role of QA in shaping, safeguarding and promoting shared values. The Forum will address questions such as how to build public confidence in higher education institutions as autonomous scientific institutions that promote academic freedom, integrity and reliable evidence. It will explore how equity, inclusion and student participation in governance and QA of higher education are promoted and supported. Finally, the Forum will invite the audience to reflect on how to ensure value-driven international collaboration in higher education.

Thursday 17 November

Special session

12.00-14.30 Meeting for students and student experts in quality assurance

This is a stand-alone session organised by ESU. There is a separate registration process which will be announced in due course.

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.

- Maria Kelo, Director of Institutional Development, EUA
- Anna Gover, Director, ENQA

Forum

15.00-17.00

Registration

17.00-18.30**Opening Plenary: What do values mean for QA?**

This session will discuss the role of QA in shaping, safeguarding and promoting shared democratic values such as academic freedom and integrity, institutional autonomy, student participation, inclusion and equity.

- Introduction to the Forum, Pegi Pavletić, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
- Welcome from the host
- Speaker(s)
 - Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies, University of Oslo
 - Matteo Vespa, President, ESU President
- Chaired by Maria Kelo, EQAF Programme Committee

18.30

Networking drinks

Friday 18 November

09.00-17.30

Registration

09.30-10.30**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 quality assurance.

- Meaningful involvement of students in QA
 - Cristina Ghitulica, ESQA/ARACIS
 - Ana Gvritishvili, Member of the Executive Committee of the European Students' Union (ESU)
 - Chaired by Geneviève Le Fort, EQAF Programme Committee
- The role of QA in supporting academic integrity
 - Speakers TBC
 - Chaired by a representative of the EQAF Programme Committee
- Policy debate on academic values and QA
 - Speakers TBC
 - Chaired by Ronny Heintze, EQAF Programme Committee

10.30-11.00

Coffee Break

11.00-12.45**Contributions session I - Student participation in governance and QA of higher education**

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

12.45-14.00

Lunch

14.00-15.00**Contributions session II - Public confidence in higher education institutions as autonomous, scientific institutions**

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

15.00-15.15

Move to the next session

15.15-16.15

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 quality assurance.

- Trust as a fundamental principle for QA
 - Rediet Abebe, Planning and Quality Assurance unit, Aalto University
 - Chaired by Liv Teresa Muth, EQAF Programme Committee
- Responsible internationalisation – the role of QA
 - Koen Verlaeckt, Secretary General of the Flemish Interuniversity Council
 - Chaired by Ulf Hedbjörk, EQAF Programme Committee
- QA and academic freedom
 - Representative of the BFUG group on values
 - Daniela Craciun, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies
 - Chaired by a representative of the EQAF Programme Committee

16.15-16.45

Coffee break

16.45-17.45

Community of practice

Free-format topical parallel sessions set up through the event app

19.30

Optional Forum Dinner (separate fee)

Saturday 19 November

09.00-13.00

Registration

09.30-11.15

Contributions session III - Value-centred international cooperation in higher education

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions coupled with practice presentations 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

Closing Plenary: Student participation as a safeguard for value-driven higher education

Student participation in governance and QA of higher education, and in the development of study programmes, benefits all stakeholders. This session will reflect on how student participation is facilitated, how it can be increased and how it shapes and safeguards democratic values.

- Manja Klemenčič, Associate Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Harvard University
- Invitation to next year's EQAF
- Wrap-up and thanks by Pegi Pavletić, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
- Chaired by Jens Jungblut, EQAF Programme Committee

13.00-14.30

Lunch and departure of participants