

# 2020 European Quality Assurance Forum

## Flexible higher education: implications for QA

Online event  
12-13 November 2020

### Call for contributions

**Deadline: 27 July 2020**

#### INTRODUCTION

ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE will organise and host the 2020 Online European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) on **12 and 13 November 2020**. The 2020 EQAF, entitled “**Flexible higher education: implications for QA**”, will include sessions about European policies and trends, research, and practices on current developments in quality assurance.

#### FORUM OBJECTIVES

Responding to current societal changes, higher education institutions are increasingly inclusive and accommodate diverse student populations. In addition, as part of the move towards student-centred learning, institutions are expected to allow students to choose the pace, place and mode of delivery. These developments are leading to the emergence of more flexible learning paths and educational offers beyond traditional qualifications. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of EQAF will explore whether quality assurance is fit for this dynamic and flexible environment and how it could better support higher education institutions in this transition and encourage them make the most of it.

#### PARTICIPANTS

EQAF provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance. Specifically, the Forum is of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for quality assurance, quality assurance officers in higher education institutions, students, quality assurance agency staff and researchers working on higher education or quality assurance.

#### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We invite contributions from quality assurance practitioners in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies, students, and researchers in the field. EQAF is an excellent opportunity to present current practices or research and test new ideas, and to elicit feedback from colleagues and stakeholders about topics that are of interest to you. All contributions are expected to stimulate a discussion among the participants, thus enhancing peer learning. Contributors should also bear in mind the diversity of participants at EQAF and should therefore aim to focus on the transferability of results or practices to different contexts in order to increase the relevance for the audience.

The deadline to submit all contributions is **27 July 2020**. **Proposals received after this date will not be considered.**

One type of contribution will be considered: abstract proposals for online sessions. We will especially welcome proposals that reflect on the forum objectives and provide insights into how quality assurance processes help engaged higher education institutions to develop activities that meet the expectations and needs of all stakeholders and demonstrate their value to society. We also welcome proposals that present different perspectives (e.g. a case study developed jointly by a university and a quality assurance agency) and strongly encourage cooperation with students when preparing proposals.

Selected contributions will be presented and discussed during the online sessions.

A shorter version of the selected abstracts will be published on the EQAF website. We encourage all contributors to pay special attention to their abstracts, which must be concise, correspond to one of the proposed topics and appeal to the participants.

## **ONLINE SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS**

The sessions will last one hour and will be introduced by the session facilitator, who will also provide conclusions at the end. The typical session will include two to three presentations. A speaker will have seven minutes to present the topic of the abstract after which a Q&A session with the audience will follow. The organisers will work together with speakers to develop interactive and dynamic sessions so the speakers should be open to adjusting their interventions with this aim in mind.

Online session topics should be based on a study or on innovative practical experiences, such as a specific initiative or activity involving the facilitator's institution/organisation or country. The sessions will be focused on the following topics:

- Quality assurance of flexible learning paths including non-traditional<sup>1</sup> qualifications and recognition of extracurricular competencies
- Flexibility in curriculum design and implementation
- Quality assurance of digitally enhanced learning and teaching and of e-assessment
- Quality assurance supporting inclusiveness, diversity and lifelong learning in higher education institutions
- Role of quality assurance in emergency situations
- Other (topics that differ from the ones presented above but are related to the theme of the Forum)

### Formal requirements

A proposal should:

- identify the speaker;
- include the speaker's short biography (up to 150 words);
- identify the corresponding topic of the abstract;
- provide a title for the abstract;
- identify the author(s);
- provide an abstract of a maximum of 500-700 words explaining the case, presenting the context, the methodology, and briefly inform about the data set the contribution is based on;
- identify the target audience for the discussion.

### Evaluation criteria

The proposals will be assessed by the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The proposal is relevant to one of the proposed topics.
- The proposal provides an engaging insight or perspective that will be of interest to the participants and contribute to keeping the discussion going.
- The proposal is not a mere presentation of an institutional practice or initiative, but looks at transferability beyond the original context as well and is self-critical so to invite comments and feedback from the participants.
- No proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted.

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<sup>1</sup>For the purpose of this call, non-traditional qualifications are qualifications granted by higher education institutions which are neither Bachelor, Master nor PhD qualifications

## PROCEDURE

The proposals should be submitted using the form attached to this call, in Word format, by **27 July 2020** to [eqaf@eua.eu](mailto:eqaf@eua.eu). Please do not send a hard copy or a PDF file.

All contributions will be reviewed separately by two members of the EQAF Programme Committee. Attention is paid to avoid potential conflict of interest when allocating contributions for review. Authors will be informed in September if their contribution has been selected for presentation at EQAF. Selected proposals may receive comments on how the proposal should be amended before presentation. Please note that due to limited resources no comments can be provided to unsuccessful proposals.

A shorter version of the selected abstracts will be posted on the EQAF website prior to the event.

All correspondence with authors will take place via e-mail.

## CALENDAR

**27 July 2020:** Proposals must be submitted in Word format using the forms attached to this call to [eqaf@eua.eu](mailto:eqaf@eua.eu). Proposals received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

**Early September 2020:** Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by e-mail to all authors. Accepted proposals may be accompanied by comments.

**October 2020:** A shorter version of the selected abstracts will be published on the EQAF website. Information regarding the date and time of sessions at the Forum will be provided closer to the event.

**12-13 November 2020:** the 2020 European Quality Assurance Forum will take place online.

Recordings of online sessions and PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the EUA YouTube channel.

## EQAF PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

ENQA:	Ronny Heintze and Rikke Warming
ESU:	Aleksandar Šušnjar and Jakub Grodecki
EUA:	Tia Loukkola (chair) and Geneviève Le Fort
EURASHE:	Marieke Janssen and Joaquim Mourato
Academic advisor:	Jens Jungblut