

Quality assurance of Cross-border Higher Education QACHE

Duration: 27 months

Summary description:

The Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education (QACHE) proposal stems from a real and perceived need to address, in terms of information and practical support, the quality assurance of CBHE. In order to promote European HE, it is important to not only ensure the good quality of CBHE, but also a consistent and understandable approach and shared principles to QA of CBHE. The project aims at reinforcing a dialogue within European countries and different actors and between Europe and other world regions on QA of CBHE, to provide practical support to QA agencies and HEIs, and to support thus the further development of a European dimension in QA.

Objectives

In view of the identified needs, the project's overall aims are to:

- Contribute to the enhancement of a policy dialogue within European countries and between Europe and other world regions on quality assurance of CBHE, and enhance thus mutual understanding of different approaches to HE and different methods in QA
- Support the further development of a European dimension in QA, by addressing common standards and shared principles and approaches for the QA of CBHE by European providers
- Develop the international dimension of HE
- Facilitate and enhance the engagement of European HEIs in CBHE delivery reinforcing thus their presence, accessibility, and attractiveness in other parts of the world
- Contribute to the protection of students against low standard provision, and issues related to recognition of CBHE due to lack of collaboration in their QA
- Support the implementation of international (OECD/UNESCO) and European (ESG) standards and guidelines on QA.

Target groups

The direct target groups of the project are primarily **European providers of cross-border education** (higher education institutions), **European quality assurance agencies**, and **quality assurance agencies in countries outside of Europe**.

Main activities

In order to achieve the aims of the project, the partnership will implement the following main activities:

- A survey of QA agencies in Europe, to collect information on the way in which the agencies address QA of CBHE;
- A survey of QA agencies members of ANQAHE and APQN, to collect information on the "host country perspective";
- Identification of case examples and good practice in the core provider countries in Europe (the UK, France, Spain and Germany) and internationally (Australia) in QA of CBHE;
- A survey of HEIs involved in CBHE in Europe to investigate their views on the current standards, and procedures in place and their usefulness and fitness for purpose, and to get information on their support needs in this area;
- A European Expert Forum, to validate the findings at the European level and support the preparation of the shared standards and common principles to be proposed to HEIs and QA agencies in Europe in the toolkit;
- Two regional seminars, in the Gulf Region and in Asia-Pacific, to validate and enrich findings from the two regional surveys;
- Elaboration of a toolkit on QA of CBHE for QA agencies and HEIs, in particular on shared principles and approaches, based on good practice and state of the art

- Elaboration of common criteria and standards for QA of CBHE for QA agencies and HEIs

Expected outcomes / products

The main concrete project outputs will be the following:

- **A toolkit for QA agencies and HEIs** containing proposals for common principles and approaches on QA of CBHE; good practice-based guidance on the establishment of collaborative evaluation with the host country QA authorities; and a range of issues that HEIs should need to be aware of – in terms of quality and quality assurance when they decide to engage in CBHE.
- **Common standards for QA of CBHE.** This ambitious project outcome will consist in a list of specific standards that QA agencies and HEIs should take into consideration when assessing (internally or externally) the CBHE provisions.
- **The final report**, which will include the analysis and results of the information collected through desk research, the surveys, national reports, and the case studies, as described above.

Dissemination and exploitation of results

The project will test and evaluate its outputs through the following main channels:

- **The Advisory Board**, which will have provided input and suggestions also for the development of the methodological tools, will be consulted also in relation to the final report and in particular the recommendations, as well as the draft programme of the final conference.
- The main testing, validation and contextualisation will take place in the **European Expert Forum** and in the two regional seminars as described above.
- **A pilot QA procedure.** The project team will prepare a format for a pilot project in this area, and will try and identify during the project, either from among the project consortium or outside, interested actors to take part in such a project. The running of the pilot will however be outside the scope of this project.

Partners:

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Belgium (Coordinator)

The Quality Assurance Agency, United Kingdom

Agence d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur, France

Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación, Spain

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, Australia

Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Egypt

Asia-Pacific Quality Network, China

German Accreditation Council, Germany

Contact:

Zeynep Olcen

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Avenue de Tervuren 36-38

1040 Brussels

Belgium

zeynep.olcen@enqa.eu

Grant: € 348.500,00