



# INQAAHE

*International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education*

## **Conclusions of the Meeting of QA Networks, Sèvres, 9 July 2009**

**Present:** David Woodhouse (INQAAHE President, chair), Adwoa Sey (AfriQan/AAU), Nadia Badrawi (ANQAHE), Tariq Al Sindi (ANQAHE), Concepcion Pijano (APQN), Dorte Kristoffersen (APQN), Anthony Stella (APQN), Muhammad Muammar Gadaffi Omar (AQAN), Syed Ahmad Hussein (AQAN), Ethley London (CANQATE), Valda Alleyne (CANQATE), György Bazsa (CEEN), Rolf Heusser (ECA), Emmi Helle (ENQA), Marie-Odile Ottenwaelter (INQAAHE), Theresa Okafor (INQAAHE), Leendert Klaassen (INQAAHE), Mark Frederiks (INQAAHE), Guillermo Vargas (RIACES), Maria José Lemaitre (RIACES), Leandro Haberfeld (RIACES).

**Apology:** Hillar Bauman (EAQAN)

### **Capacity-building activities**

1. Some good practices that were highlighted in the presentation by RIACES and the discussions between networks are: developing internal QA, self-assessment and external review of agencies; training of staff members from agencies; internships in other agencies; experienced staff members within the network can act as consultants; participation as observers in external review visits; exchange of reviewers; organizing study visits for HEIs to show them operating QA schemes in different countries.
2. Capacity-building opportunities for the African region were discussed. AfriQan is not formally registered yet. In November there will be a meeting organized by the AAU where the Constitution of AfriQan will be discussed, officers should be elected, and a communiqué should be written.
3. The amount of annual membership contributions and the proportion of income stemming from membership contributions vary a lot between networks. For full members the fees are: ANQAHE US\$ 400; APQN US\$ 300; CANQATE US\$ 100; ECA EUR 3,000; ENQA EUR 4,500; INQAAHE EUR 420.
4. The proportion of income stemming from GIQAC funding is quite high for some networks. Networks will finance some ongoing projects from membership fees when (after 2010) the GIQAC funding will stop. For some activities funding after the initial development phase will not be needed anymore or income is generated through

carrying out these activities in a self-sustainable manner. Some remaining activities or new projects may need funding from other sources.

5. The following possible funding sources were mentioned:
  - International organizations like the European Commission, Organization of American States, UNESCO and World Bank;
  - Regional development banks and organizations;
  - Private foundations.

The presentations on RIACES and the African region can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.inqaahe.org/main/networks/regional-reports-2009>

### **Organisation of the networks**

1. APQN initiated a discussion on the networks' structure and the exchange of information between secretariats. The importance of a very small group of people working very hard for the network became clear. It was agreed that a more frequent exchange of information on procedures and ways of handling the network matters would be beneficial for all. It should be noted that there are not only regional networks but also other types of networks, e.g. professional accreditors networks.
2. The role of INQAAHE regarding the networks is to provide a global platform for discussions on QA matters and disseminating good practices ; to facilitate interaction between the networks; and, to co-operate on specific projects (as outlined in e.g. Memoranda of Cooperation or GIQAC proposals). The INQAAHE regional liaisons would, together with the Secretariat, develop a format for information provided by the networks to be placed on the networks section on the INQAAHE website.
3. INQAAHE has listed the following aims of a virtual meeting place for the networks: to enable regional networks to post and collect information from other regions; to discuss GIQAC funded projects among and within networks; to facilitate and monitor collaborative work on projects that include several regions; and, to share ideas for future projects carried out jointly by multiple regions. Procedures, projects, strategies, current QA issues and topics for future networks meetings could be discussed in a forum area. INQAAHE would develop the virtual meeting place on its website and ask the networks for their ideas and comments for the content and structure.
4. ECA held a presentation on how it has set up its network of European accreditation organizations as a project organization. Based on its experiences the following elements for a successful project organization were identified: clear project goals connected to a road map with milestones; trust building measures; avoiding too much formalism; a homogeneous group of committed partners; and, cooperation with other organizations and stakeholders.

5. INQAAHE held a presentation on performance indicators for networks by focusing on a performance measurement system for both GIQAC funded and entirely self-funded INQAAHE projects. Success was defined by: developing and providing member services (including information-sharing); members using these services; and, improvement of agencies and their QA activities as a result of this use. For each of the services and projects draft indicators were presented. The draft indicators of all the networks that have submitted proposals for funding by GIQAC would be discussed at a meeting organized by UNESCO on July 10.
  
6. Topics for the agenda of the next networks meeting will include: reports on projects and available training materials, and the use of several languages on websites.

The presentations from ECA and INQAAHE can be downloaded from:

<http://www.inqaahe.org/main/networks/regional-reports-2009>