

DRAFT (1.7.2018)

Policy Proposal for the enhancement of quality assurance and benchmarking in India

Summary statement shared by ANECA and NAAC:

The EQUAM project intends to demonstrate that, with coordinated political, academic and managerial/administrative support, significant and demonstrable advances can be coordinated in the quality assurance of higher education and in building links to benchmarking based on those process and standards, irrespective of diverse contexts and cultures at institutional, national and regional levels, and at a time of acute financial crisis.

Utilizing the evidence base constructed through its activities, the EQUAM-BI project agency partners (NAAC and ANECA) propose that in order to structure the work of the project a new approach to the white paper shall be endorsed.

This process shall follow the mechanism stated in point 2 of this paper and It should be framed under the assumption that HE policy and practical development in India concerning the QA and benchmarking should give special attention to the following themes:

1. A shared concept of QA - to promote a clear and shared understanding of responsibilities and expectations
2. A review/revision of Academic Quality Assurance Criteria - to align with international expectations and promote and prioritise achievements and outcomes (*over or in addition to* input measures)
3. The development of a QA Model - that clearly identifies the necessary flows of information for effective and efficient management, and is adaptable to the different contexts and priorities of different HEIs
4. The roles and responsibilities of QABs – including the identification of where authority for ensuring QA activities resides (and when it may be delegated)
5. Enhancing the engagement of all stakeholders in higher education - concerning their expectations about quality and how it can be improved.

Road – Map and methodological approach

- a) Gather information about the state of the art of QA in the Indian higher education institutions: the focus has to be put on the trends of Data management and QA in India and Europe to provide a better picture for the White Paper.
- b) NAAC and ANECA discuss this views in the MT meeting in (to be held in Bangalore on 29.01.2019) and shall reinforce the role play by both agencies in their respective countries in supporting universities in both strands of the trends.
- c) The meeting to be held in Pune in March 2019 and Chennai in April together with the set of study visits to be conducted in Stockholm and

Valencia in June 2019 shall allow both Indian and EU partners to present particular approaches to data management and internal QA issues which will be complemented by the specific procedures and guidelines that the QA and accreditation bodies in India, NAAC and ANECA, put in place. The case study of KTH and University of Valencia in the June 2019 meetings not only will act as examples of the trends in Europe but will also serve as the European Higher Education Area '**core benchmarking**' exercise on data management and internal QA rooted in the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG), which are the shared and agreed foundations for both internal and QA for the European partners.

- d) This 'core benchmark' will also be strengthened in the study visit in ANECA/Valencia with a practical training for the Indian partners in the AUDIT procedure for assessing internal QA systems in the Spanish HEIs presented by ANECA and the unit in charge of such processes of the University of Valencia, in order to show how the internal QA arrangements play a crucial part in the data management of the European universities to support and strengthen the decision making processes of the HEIs at the governance level.
- e) The core methodology of the ANECA promoted AUDIT procedure will be encapsulated in a Toolkit including the needs identified in the Survey of WP2 and WP3 and the issues identified by NAAC in the Pune meeting.
- f) The Toolkit will be at the disposal of the Indian universities to respond to their particular needs. Finally, the training offered by ANECA could be replicated where necessary to include all the partners.
- g) After the set of meetings Pune-Chennai-Stockholm-Valencia, the project will be in a position to finish the White Paper with meaningful information to promote further policy recommendations to constitute the backbone of the proposed model to design and develop benchmarking tools to enhance the internal QA systems of the Indian universities.
- h) One of the most important aspects of the QA model should be its adaptability to the requirements of external QA procedures both national and international according to the particular mission of each Indian university taking part in the project.
- i) Afterwards, the document will be publically presented and discussed in Barcelona in September 2019 in the first multiplier event of the project.