



The 4th European Quality Assurance Forum

19 – 21 November 2009

Creativity and Diversity Challenges for quality assurance beyond 2010

Hosted by the Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen

Call for papers and workshops

Deadline 20 August 2009

INTRODUCTION

Following the success of previous forums, we are pleased to announce that the 4th European Quality Assurance Forum – co-organised by ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE and supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission – will be hosted by the **Copenhagen Business School (Copenhagen, Denmark) on 19 – 21 November 2009**.

The main goal of this event is to provide a discussion forum centred on how current internal and external quality assurance approaches take account of institutional diversity and support creativity in higher education.

Through plenary and parallel sessions, the discussion will frame these issues in the context of the ongoing construction of the European Higher Education Area.

PARTICIPANTS

The forum provides a platform for discussion and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance. Specifically, the forum will be of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for QA, QA officers in higher education institutions, students, QA agency staff, employers and researchers working on higher education or the QA field.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS

We invite contributions from QA practitioners in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies, students, institutional leaders and researchers in the field. The forum is an excellent opportunity to test current practices or research and to elicit feedback from colleagues and stakeholders. Therefore, all contributions are expected to seek to stimulate a discussion with forum participants.

The deadline to submit all contributions is **20 August 2009**. **Proposals received after this date will not be considered.**

Two types of contributions are being sought: papers and workshop proposals

These contributions will be presented and discussed during the parallel sessions, which will be made up of 25 – 45 participants.

Please note that participants will be free to select which workshop or paper session to attend based on the **abstracts**, which will be included in the forum web-site and in the forum programme. Thus, we encourage all contributors to pay special attention to their

abstracts, which must be concise, correspond to the content of their papers and appeal to the public. Further details on how to structure your contribution can be found in annex.

1. Paper sessions

This type of contribution will present either

- a) an analysis of quality assurance concepts or empirical research data related to internal or external quality assurance; or
- b) a specific institutional, national, or European quality assurance approach. The main objective of this type of paper is to share and discuss, in a self-reflective and critical way, experiences of QA practices or test ideas for new quality assurance initiatives and receive feedback from the forum participants. Authors should aim to discuss lessons that forum participants can draw from the case presented and to analyse success factors, challenges encountered as well as potential failures.

The papers will be presented alone or together with a cognate paper during a parallel session. The presentation of the paper, with a maximum length of 20 minutes, will be followed by a group discussion. The author should provide questions for discussion with the audience at the conclusion of the paper.

Formal requirements

A paper proposal should:

- Identify the author(s) and, in the case of co-authored papers, indicate who will be responsible for presenting the paper at the Forum
- Identify the organisation of the author(s)
- Be no more than 3000 words (excluding references)
- Be accompanied by a 100–150 word abstract
- Conclude with two or three questions that will lead the discussion following the presentation

Evaluation criteria

The papers will be assessed by members of the Forum Organising Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The paper has a clear focus that will be of interest to the forum participants
- The argument, development, and structure are logical, coherent and understandable
- The paper provides a substantial basis for discussion and has the potential to sustain a lively discussion
- The paper is linked to the themes: institutional diversity and creativity
- Papers presenting institutional examples are critical and self-reflective and identify clearly the success and obstacles in implementing a specific QA aspect.

2. Workshops

Workshops will focus on providing participants with a structured background on a specific topic or provide hands-on practical advice on how to implement or use a specific QA tool. The workshop will be led by the presenter(s) in a 90-minute working session. Most of the time should be given over to participant activity rather than presentation from the workshop leader(s).

Formal requirements

A workshop proposal should:

- Identify the presenter(s)
- Identify the organisation of the presenter(s)
- Explain the main objectives
- Explain the activity
- Specify any audio-visual requirements
- Be no more than 2 A4 pages
- Be accompanied by a 100–150 word abstract

Evaluation criteria

The workshop proposals will be assessed by members of the Forum Organising Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- Relevance of the topic in relation to the forum themes: institutional diversity and creativity
- The objectives of the workshop and a detailed description of how the workshop will be run
- The level and type of participant activity: workshops should aim to sustain a lively debate with and the engagement of the audience.

Any supplementary documentation could be annexed. For instance, a workshop proposal on comparing different kinds of teaching evaluation questionnaires could include the questionnaires that will be discussed during the workshop.

PROCEDURE

All proposals should be submitted in Word format by **20 August 2009** to Thérèse Zhang (therese.zhang@eua.be).

All contributions will be reviewed by the Forum Organising Committee. The authors will be informed whether their contribution has been selected for presentation at the forum. Selected proposals may receive comments on how the proposal should be amended before presentation at the EQAF 2009. Following the forum and after a further review, a selected number of papers will be published in the post-conference publication.

All correspondence with authors will be by e-mail. Referees' comments will be communicated electronically. In most cases, authors will receive feedback on their submission, including when rejected.

Publication

All selected papers will be posted on the forum web-site after the event.

In addition, a post-conference publication will be produced, based on a small selection of the papers presented at the forum. This publication is intended to contribute to the sustainability of the forum's outcomes by providing a wider audience with up-to-date information on current trends in internal and external quality processes in Europe. Published papers should not exceed 3000 words.

Calendar

20 August 2009: All elements of the proposal must be submitted in Word format to therese.zhang@eua.be. Proposals received after this date will not be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. Please do not send a hard copy or a PDF file.

September 2009: Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by e-mail to all authors. Accepted proposals will be accompanied by comments. Information regarding the day and time of sessions at the Forum will be provided later.

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December 2009: Notification whether the paper will be included in the publication. Authors may receive comments on how to adapt the paper before it is finally accepted for publication.

29 January 2010 (for papers selected for publication only): Deadline to submit the final paper for publication.

FORUM ORGANISING COMMITTEE

ENQA:	Emmi Helle and Bruno Curvale
ESU:	Bruno Carapinha and Ligia Deca
EUA:	Henrik Toft Jensen and Tia Loukkola
EURASHE:	Lucien Bollaert and Barbara Michalk
Academic advisor:	Lee Harvey, Editor, Quality in Higher Education, UK

Annex 1: GUIDELINES FOR PAPERS¹

Content

Papers should be original. If there is an overlap with material published elsewhere, details should be given.

The EQAF is an international event aimed at those interested in the theory, practice and policies relating to the management, improvement and evaluation of quality in higher education. This has two implications for authors.

First, the paper has to be of interest to a broad spectrum of participants, which means that:

- (a) The paper draws on international examples, or
- (b) It reports some international comparative research, or
- (c) If country specific, it explains how developments in one country have been informed by international developments, or
- (d) It explains how developments or research in one country has implications beyond its borders.

The aim is to provide readers with information about, and lessons from, ideas and practices that are transferable to other contexts.

Second, the paper should avoid local references or assume that the readership will understand the processes used in a specific institution, or agency or be familiar with the higher education system in a given country. Localised abbreviations or taken-for-granted notions should not be cited without explanation. Therefore, it is incumbent on authors to be clear about terminology.

Third, the paper should provide a substantial basis for discussion in the working sessions.

A clear line of argument (or story) should flow through the paper. The paper needs to keep forum participants interested.

Abstract

All papers should include an abstract of 100–150 words. The first sentence or two of the abstract should sum up the core idea, argument or thesis of the paper. This should be followed by concise details of the evidence used to support the argument. The implications of the paper (for different stakeholders) should normally follow. Special attention should be paid to writing an informative and appealing abstract because participants will base their choice of parallel sessions on this.

Institutional Case Studies

The case can be developed from the perspective of a QA agency or a higher education institution as well as from the perspective of a faculty or a department, demonstrating the various tensions and challenges.

Suggested headings:

- The quality assurance approach and/or strategy of the institution
- Legal/national/cultural context and/or constraints
- Stating the specific case and core issues
- Barriers and problems encountered when implementing new practice
- Policies and tools applied to overcome them

¹ These guidelines have been adapted from the guidelines of the journal *Quality in Higher Education*.

- Successes achieved/status to date
- Lessons learned (what would you do differently in retrospect)
- Key issues still to be mastered (this would be particularly helpful in generating discussion during the session)

Length

Contributions to the Forum should be a maximum of 3000 words (excluding references) and should include an abstract of 100–150 words.