



# 11th European Quality Assurance Forum

## Quality in context – embedding improvement

Hosted by the Slovenian Student Union  
and University of Ljubljana

Ljubljana, Slovenia

17-19 November 2016

*Draft programme (as of 2 November 2016)*

The European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance (QA). 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 and researchers working on higher education or the QA field.

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2016 EQAF, entitled '**Quality in context – embedding improvement**', will combine practice-oriented or research-based discussions that will take place in the paper sessions and workshops with presentations of current developments in quality assurance. The Forum provides an opportunity for participants to update their knowledge and extend their professional development.

### Forum objectives

Across Europe there are significant similarities in the ways in which the quality of higher education is assured and enhanced. Nonetheless there is wide-spread agreement that approaches to quality and QA need to be tailored to specific disciplinary, institutional and national contexts and cultures so to allow them to be embedded into daily work and be efficient. The 2016 Forum will explore these different contexts and consider how QA policies and practices are adapted to respect diversity and remain fit for purpose.

### Thursday 17 November

#### Pre-forum meetings

16.00-16.45 Meeting with key players

*Keynote speakers, parallel plenary speakers, paper and workshop presenters and chairs are invited to attend this pre-forum meeting.*

#### Forum

14.00-18.30 Registration

**17.00-17.30 Official Opening**

- Introduction to the Forum, Juan Carlos Hernandez Buades, Chair, EQAF Steering Committee



- Welcome from the hosts
  - Klemen Balanč, President, Slovenian Student Union
  - Dr. Ivan Svetlik, Rector, University of Ljubljana

**17.30-18.30**

**Plenary Session I: Exploring the institutional context**

A panel of representatives from diverse institutions will discuss the commonalities and divergences in their QA systems and cultures and how different approaches can be used to achieve the same goals.

- Machteld Verbruggen, Thomas More University College
- Goran Turk, University of Ljubljana
- Stefan Gies, European Association of Conservatoires
- Practical information on the welcome reception
- Discussion with the chairs and the audience
- Chaired by Caty Duykaerts and Beate Tremel, EQAF Steering Committee

19.30

Welcome Reception (at Ljubljana Castle)

**Friday 18 November**

09.00-17.30

Registration

**09.30-10.45**

**Plenary Session II: Exploring the national context**

Despite continuing harmonisation of higher education throughout the EHEA, national histories and cultures play an important role in QA policies and practices. This session will draw on both theoretic concepts and practical examples to show how approaches to external QA differ in the context of diverse national systems and cultures and the impact this has on internal QA.

- Catherine Owen, University of Glasgow
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Practical information on breakout sessions
- Chaired by Oliver Vettori, EQAF Steering Committee

10.45-11.15

Coffee Break

**11.15-13.00**

**Papers and Workshops – Session I**

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

13.00-14.30

Lunch



14.30-15.45

### **Parallel Plenary Session I: Perspectives on QA**

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.

- QA in the policy context – updates from the Bologna Process
  - Lea Meister, ESU
  - Pdraig Walsh, ENQA
  - Chaired by Tia Loukkola, EQAF Steering Committee
- Key considerations for cross-border quality assurance
  - Anna Gover, EUA
  - Paula Ranne, ENQA
  - Melinda Szabo, EQAR
  - Blazhe Todorovski, ESU
  - Alexandre Wipf, EURASHE
- Enhancing internal QA systems – lessons learnt from the EIQAS project
  - Izabela Kwiatkowska Sujka, Polish Accreditation Committee
  - Vanja Perovsek, University of Ljubljana
  - Klemen Šubic, SQAA-NAKVIS
  - Hugo Soares, A3ES / New University of Lisbon
  - Chaired by Maria Kelo, EQAF Steering Committee

15.45-16.15

Coffee Break

16.15-17.30

### **Parallel Plenary Session II: Perspectives on QA**

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.

- Developing pedagogies as means for improving quality
  - Thérèse Zhang, EUA
  - Chaired by Blazhe Todorovski, EQAF Steering Committee
- Examining excellence in higher education
  - Ole-Jacob Skodvin, NOKUT
  - John Butler, Birmingham City University
  - Chaired by Oliver Vettori, EQAF Steering Committee
- Impact of context on internal QA globally
  - Michaela Martin, IIEP, UNESCO
  - Chaired by Marieke Janssen

19.30

Optional Forum Dinner (separate fee)



## **Saturday 19 November**

09.00-13.00 Registration

### **09.30-11.15 Papers and Workshops – Session II**

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

11.15-11.45 Coffee Break

### **11.45-13.00 Plenary Session III: Exploring the learning context**

As society changes, so must higher education institutions also change. This has been keenly felt in recent years with regard to the learning environment. This session will consider how higher education is adapting to keep up with new approaches to learning and teaching and the implications this has for QA.

- Denis Berthiaume, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- Invitation to next year's EQAF
- Wrap-up and thanks by Juan Carlos Hernandez Buades, Chair, EQAF Steering Committee
- Chaired by Tina Harrison, EQAF Steering Committee

13.00-14.30 Lunch and departure of participants