2024 European Quality Assurance Forum

Enhancing education, research and societal engagement through quality assurance

Hosted by University of Twente, Netherlands
14-16 November 2024

Call for contributions
Deadline 23 June 2024

INTRODUCTION

ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE will organise the 2024 European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) **from 14 to 16 November 2024 in Enschede, Netherlands, hosted by University of Twente.** Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2024 EQAF, entitled '**Enhancing education, research and societal engagement through quality assurance'**, will combine presentations of current developments in quality assurance (QA) with discussions on research, policy and practice that will take place in paper and practice presentation sessions and workshops.

FORUM OBJECTIVES

Connecting quality assurance efforts across teaching, research, and the third mission is crucial for universities to achieve their strategic objectives. This integrated approach can foster a well-rounded and impactful educational experience for students while advancing research and contributing meaningfully to society. However, addressing the interconnectedness of the three missions is becoming more challenging both for internal and external QA systems due to the wide variety of new developments and trends in higher education. These range from the need to base learning and teaching on research, to technological advancements including artificial intelligence, and the rise of projects envisaging the cooperation of different actors including non-academic stakeholders.

EQAF 2024 will explore new policies, innovative methodologies and tools that can ensure a holistic approach to quality and quality assurance. It will also invite the audience to reflect on how quality assurance can meet needs and challenges arising at the interconnection of the three missions. In addition to researchers, practitioners and policy makers in quality assurance, this year's event will be of special interest to professionals responsible for quality of research and outreach functions at universities, and to staff with project management functions.

PARTICIPANTS

EQAF provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in QA. Specifically, the Forum is 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.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We invite contributions from QA practitioners in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies, students, and researchers in the field. EQAF is an excellent opportunity to present current practice or research and test new ideas, and to elicit feedback from colleagues and stakeholders about topics that are of interest to you. All contributions are expected to seek to stimulate a discussion with the participants, thus enhancing peer-learning. Contributors should also bear in mind the diversity of participants at EQAF and should therefore aim to focus on the transferability of results or practices to different contexts in order to increase the relevance for the audience.

All contributions should focus on one of the following sub-topics:

- **Fostering cooperation and interdisciplinarity**

Cooperation at all levels is and remains an important element within the three missions of higher education and is often considered part of 'quality' in higher education. Increasingly complex challenges ranging from the climate crisis to geopolitical tensions make cooperation between disciplines and faculties, between institutions, and between institutions and enterprises or local communities even more urgent and relevant. As such, cooperation is at the forefront of current discussions about joint programmes, flexible learning pathways, hybrid mobility, micro-credentials, work-based learning, labour-market relevance, cooperative research projects, joint doctoral schools, community engagement, the third mission, and the social dimension of higher education. What does this all mean for quality assurance? In this strand we welcome contributions focusing on the role of QA in fostering these different types of cooperation, including interdisciplinarity, combining the different university missions for quality education and research, and innovative initiatives such as service learning.

- **Addressing technological developments in HE**

Technological advancements have influenced higher education and quality assurance for years, but developments seem to be picking up speed. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the way we see higher education and quality, with practical implications for how we deal with quality assurance processes and data. Under this strand we welcome contributions focusing on how QA can address technological developments that support interconnections between the different university missions, ranging from learning and teaching, to the recruitment of students and researchers, and the interaction of researchers with society. In addition, we invite proposals that look into how QA can contribute to shift the paradigm of 'what is quality' in learning and teaching.

- **Project management and evaluation to support quality**

While there are increasing calls for synergies across the missions of higher education institutions, in reality they are often implemented through distinct projects, leading to what some have called the 'projectification of the university'. This is a nearly universal feature in research, very common in initiatives around the third mission, and is also prevalent in the cross-cutting institutional infrastructural work of HEIs. QA agencies often organise their work as projects, too. The discipline of project management and the related activities of project and programme evaluation have become increasingly formalised with an extensive set of concepts and methods. We invite contributions focusing on the use of project evaluation as an important aspect of the internal quality assurance of HEIs, particularly with regard to initiatives pertaining to the different university missions.

The deadline to submit all contributions is **23 June 2024**. **Proposals received after this date will not be considered**.

Three types of contributions are being sought: paper, workshop and practice presentation proposals.

We will especially welcome proposals that reflect on the forum objectives and provide insights into the interconnectedness of the three missions. We also welcome proposals that present different perspectives (e.g. a case study developed jointly by a university and a QA agency), and we strongly encourage cooperation with students when preparing proposals.

Please note that in case of acceptance we require presenters of contributions to be available for the full duration of the event. We are unable to accommodate requests to present contributions at specific dates and times.

Selected contributions will be presented and discussed during parallel sessions, which are usually attended by 20–40 participants. Please note that participants will be free to select which session to attend based on the **abstracts**, which will be published on the EQAF website. Therefore, we encourage all contributors to pay special attention to their abstracts, which must be concise, correspond to the content of their contribution and appeal to the participants. The organisers reserve the right to amend abstracts in order to ensure that they accurately reflect the content of the session. Giving **explicit titles of a reasonable length** may also contribute to capturing the attention of a wider audience.

SESSION TYPES

1. Paper sessions

This type of contribution will focus on one of the following:

a) Research – an analysis of concepts or data related to quality assurance with discussion of the implications for policy or practice

b) Policy – a case study of a particular policy approach, taking into account the implications for practice or transferability to other contexts

Papers will be presented during **45-minute-long Contributions sessions**. The presentation of the paper should last no longer than 15 minutes and will be followed by a discussion with the audience. The paper presentation may be combined with a practice presentation on a similar topic (see more details on practice presentations below). The author(s) should provide questions for discussion stimulating debate 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;

- Include a short biography for each author (up to 150 words);

- Include an abstract of 250 words maximum, plus a short description of the structure of the paper (for example, the table of contents);

- Identify the corresponding sub-topic;

- Provide two or three discussion questions for the session.

Please note that selected paper presentation authors will have to submit their full paper (maximum 3000 words) by 25 October 2024.

Evaluation criteria

The papers will be assessed by members of the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The paper is relevant both to the general objectives of the Forum and to the 2024 topic.

- The paper has a clear focus on the identified sub-topic and will be of interest to the Forum participants.

- The paper looks at transferability beyond the original context.

Please note that proposals that serve a commercial purpose will not be accepted.

You can find the paper electronic submission form here.

2. Workshops

Workshops will focus on providing participants with a structured exercise to enhance understanding of 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 facilitator(s) in a **90-minute Contributions session**. Workshops should not be dedicated to one or several paper-like presentations: the focus should be on participant activity rather than a presentation by the workshop facilitator(s).

Formal requirements

The proposal should:

- Identify the facilitator(s)

- Include the authors' short biographies (up to 150 words)

- Identify the corresponding sub-topic of the proposal

- Identify the target audience for the workshop

- Explain the main objectives / intended learning outcomes

- Explain the activity to be carried out during the workshop

- Specify any practical requirements (audio-visual requirements, room layout)

- Be accompanied by an abstract of maximum 150 words

Any supplementary documentation may 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.

We strongly encourage the workshop facilitators to prepare and handle the timing of their activities carefully. They should also be prepared to adapt to the number of participants in the audience (e.g. adapt the number of sub-groups in case attendance is higher or lower than expected).

Evaluation criteria

The proposal will be assessed by members of the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The level and type of participant activity: workshops should aim to sustain a lively debate with and the engagement of the audience in a hands-on activity

- The topic and objectives of the workshop and their relevance to QA and the EQAF participants

- Description of how the workshop will be run (activities proposed, how realistic it is to carry them out in the given timeframe, methodology to ensure participation from the audience...)

- The content of the workshop is in line with the proposed objectives/learning outcomes

Please note that proposals that serve a commercial purpose will not be accepted.

You can find the workshop electronic submission form here.

3. Practice presentations

Practice presentations are expected to share and discuss experiences with a particular practice, approach or case study of QA practices at institutional, national or European level, analysing the success factors, challenges encountered, possible failures, and transferability to other contexts. The practice presentation is expected to discuss experiences in a self-reflective and critical way or to test ideas for new quality assurance initiatives and receive feedback from participants.

Submissions of this kind should invite participants to reflect on whether lessons learnt from this practice or approach could be transferable to their contexts, allowing the audience to exchange on similar experiences and on how they compare to the presented practice. To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 7 minutes. Several successful proposals for practice presentations and papers on similar topics may be grouped together in one session, in which case the authors may be asked to adapt to the final outline of the session.

Formal requirements

The proposal should:

- Identify the presenter;

- Include a short biography of the presenter (up to 150 words);

- Identify the corresponding sub-topic;

- Include an abstract (100 words maximum);

- Be clearly and concisely written in a maximum of 500 words;

- Include some examples of questions for the audience;

Evaluation criteria

The proposal will be assessed by members of the EQAF Programme Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- The proposal matches the Forum theme and one of the sub-topics;

- The proposal provides an engaging insight or perspective that will be of interest to the participants and foster discussion;

- For proposals presenting case examples – the proposal is critical and self-reflective and clearly identify the successes and obstacles in implementation and the lessons learnt;

- The proposal is not a mere presentation of an institutional practice or initiative but looks at transferability beyond the original context and invites for comments and feedback from the participants.

Please note that proposals that serve a commercial purpose will not be accepted.

You can find the practice presentation electronic submission form here.

PROCEDURE

All proposals must be submitted using the electronic forms available through the links provided in this call by **23 June 2024**. Please do not send a hard copy or a Word format/PDF file.

All contributions will be reviewed separately by two members of the EQAF Programme Committee. Attention is paid to avoid potential conflict of interest when allocating contributions for review. Please pay attention when selecting the author category in the submission form.

Please see Question 10 in the Frequently Asked Questions for further details of the review and selection process. Authors will be informed in September 2024 if their contribution has been selected for presentation at EQAF. Selected proposals may receive comments on how the proposal should be amended before presentation. Please note that due to limited resources no comments can be provided to unsuccessful proposals.

Unless the author indicates otherwise, all selected papers and presentations will be posted on the EQAF website after the event and the page will be assigned an ISSN number.

IMPORTANT: If you have submitted a proposal for a paper presentation or a workshop, please do NOT register for the Forum until the results of the selection process have been announced. Paper presenters and workshop facilitators will benefit from one reduced fee per contribution, which will be applied through a special registration process.

All correspondence with authors will be by e-mail.

In order to assist contributors, frequently asked questions are included as an annex to this call for contributions.

CALENDAR

23 June 2024	Proposals must be submitted through electronic forms. Electronic forms are accessible by clicking on the links provided in this call. Proposals received after 23 June 2024 will not be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.
09 - 13 September 2024	Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent by e-mail to all authors. Accepted proposals may be accompanied by comments.
October 2024	Abstracts of accepted proposals will be published on the Forum website. Information regarding the day and time of sessions at the Forum will be provided closer to the event.

14 - 16 November 2024   The 2024 European Quality Assurance Forum takes place in Enschede, Netherlands, hosted by University of Twente. Full text of presented papers and PowerPoint presentations from paper, workshop and practice presentation sessions will be posted on the EQAF website and allocated an ISSN number.

EQAF 2024 PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

ENQA: Eva Fernandez de Labastida and Bryan Maguire

ESU: Natalia Greniewska and Ana Gvritishvili

EUA: Maria Kelo and Michael Hofer

EURASHE: Anca Prisicariu and Sylvie Navarre

Academic advisor: Daniela Craciun

http://bit.ly/EQAFLinkedin

Annex 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This informal annex aims to provide indicative answers to frequently asked questions related to the EQAF call for contributions. For any further questions, please contact eqaf@eua.eu.

1. **I would like to present the QA system in place in my institution. Should I choose to submit a paper or a workshop?**

Answer: Workshops are based on interactivity with the audience (e.g., on the use of specific QA tools in different national and institutional contexts), and should not consist of one or a series of paper-like presentations. If you wish to collect feedback from other institutional contexts on, for example, a tool that you would like to implement within your institution, a workshop might be a good solution. Please be aware that a workshop lasts twice as long as a paper session and you will have to propose activities and sustain a lively discussion with your audience for 90 minutes.

If you wish to present a paper, please bear in mind that, if selected, your paper presentation should provide a substantial basis for sustaining a lively discussion among the audience. The paper should therefore be self-reflective and provide a basis for broadening perspectives beyond your own institutional approach.

2. **May I co-author a paper with someone from outside my institution?**

Answer: Proposals submitted jointly by two or several authors are very welcome. You are free to co-author it either with someone from your institution or someone from another institution/organisation. As an example, a joint paper presenting a reform from both points of view of a QA agency and of an institution, or on a QA procedure from the perspective of an institution and its students, would be highly welcome and of interest to the audience of the Forum.

3. **Can authors selected under the call for contributions be funded to participate in EQAF?**

Answer: The EQAF organisers do not fund participation. Should a proposal be accepted, the presenter's institution often covers the Forum fee as well as travel to the event. However, one reduced fee will be granted to each selected paper and workshop at EQAF. This will be applied through a special registration process after the selection of papers and workshops is finalised.

4. **I am based in an institution that is located outside Europe. May I still submit a proposal under the call for contributions?**

Answer: Yes. Your proposal will be reviewed on the same basis and following the same criteria as other proposals (see call for contributions for the list of evaluation criteria for each category of proposal). Please also consider the answer to question 3 related to funding for attending EQAF.

5. **I am a student. May I also participate in this call for contributions?**

Answer: You are most welcome to submit a proposal. We strongly encourage student participation in EQAF and reduced registrations fees are available for students.

6. **I do not work in the higher education area but would like to submit a contribution on quality assurance as a transversal topic. Would that be possible?**

Answer: It depends on how your proposal will address quality assurance. EQAF specifically focuses on quality assurance in higher education and all proposals selected under the call for contributions should be related, in one way or another, to this specific field. It might therefore not be the right platform if you intend to discuss a generic quality assurance management tool.

7. **Will all proposals selected under this call for contributions be published automatically?**

Answer: During the Forum, PowerPoint presentations from workshop, paper and practice presentation sessions will be published on the Forum website. The full text of all papers will also be published, unless

the authors request otherwise. The webpage on which they are published will be assigned an ISSN number.

8. What should I do after my proposal is selected?

Answer: In September, you will be notified by email about whether your proposal has been accepted. This email will indicate how you should then proceed.

9. Are papers that have been already published elsewhere eligible under this call for contributions?

Answer: Yes. Please however indicate on your submission form where and when it was published. Your proposal should still fulfil the evaluation criteria as stated in the call for contributions, and be of relevance for the EQAF participants.

10. What is the evaluation procedure?

Answer: The evaluation procedure works as follows: each proposal is reviewed separately by two different members of the EQAF Programme Committee from different backgrounds, taking into account potential conflicts of interest and imperatives of impartiality. In practice this means that submissions from QA agencies are not reviewed by the ENQA representatives on the Programme Committee, contributions from universities are not reviewed by the EUA representatives on the Programme Committee and so forth. Reviewers are also asked to declare any conflict of interest when they receive their contributions to be reviewed and an alternative reviewer will be found if necessary. Each reviewer will give a score according to a standard scale for grading, and provide comments as necessary. The EQAF Programme Committee then meets to discuss and decide on the final selection based on scores given to contributions, the maximum number of proposals to be selected for each type of contribution, and the need to ensure a balanced programme.

11. Besides the evaluation criteria as announced in the call for contributions, are there other criteria that I should be aware of?

Answer: All proposals that fulfil the formal requirements as stated in the call for contributions will be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria. In addition, as is usual practice in academia, the reviewers will not evaluate any proposal that presents serious distortions to the basic principles for original contributions, i.e. papers with examples of plagiarism or copyright issues.

12. Will the organisers collect feedback from participants about my session?

Answer: The organisers do not collect feedback from participants about individual paper/workshop/practice presentation sessions. However, the presenters/facilitators are free to collect feedback from the participants of their session themselves.

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