

ERASMUS + ENHANCING QUALITY ASSURANCE IN SOUTH ASIA (EQASA)

FINAL CONFERENCE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

21-22 March 2020 CHENNAI-INDIA



PARTICIPATION REPORT

Team Members:

Prof. Dr. G. Nagarajan, Director, Centre for International Affairs

Ms. R. Rajeswari, IQAC Campus Coordinator – SAP

Submitted to:

The Registrar, Anna University

Brief Report on the:

FINAL CONFERENCE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

(Prof. Dr. G. Nagarajan, Ms. R. Rajeswari)

Preamble:

About EQASA Project: The EQASA (Enhancing Quality Assurance in South Asia Higher Education Institutions) Project (from September 2016 to September 2019) is promoted by the European Commission under the scheme of the Erasmus+ Program. Globalization and knowledge-based economies demand highly trained graduates with high quality education. Against this background, EQASA, aims at supporting sustainable socio-economic growth in South Asia by strengthening institutional capacity in HEIs and enhancing the culture of QA. The 3-year Project under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Yiouli Papadiamantaki, Project Coordinator, University of Peloponnese.

EQASA Project Implementation: The project implementation is divided into three stages. The first stage is to understand the current situation and draw comparative analysis of QA practice and needs at HEIs in seven countries (Greece, Spain, India, Afghanistan, Nepal, UK and Italy). This in-depth understanding moves EQASA to the second stage, namely, training & learning. South Asian HEIs will upgrade their human and technical capacities to be transformed into institutional capacity. In the third stage, South Asian HEIs shall conduct internal assessments and draft a 4-year QA strategic plan to orient their respective QA development. Constructive feedback will be given by the EU HEIs. In parallel, the consortium will organize focused activities to engage policy makers, authorities, students, employers, and local communities to improve QA practice in the region.

Partners in the project:

1. University of the Peloponnese, Greece – Project Coordinator
2. Agora Institute for knowledge management, Spain – Academic Coordinator
3. Anna University, India
4. Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar Marathwada University, India
5. Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Afghanistan
6. Nangarhar University, Afghanistan
7. Tribhuvan University, Nepal
8. Mid-Western University, Nepal
9. London Metropolitan University, UK
10. University of Genoa, Italy

Kick-off Meeting (Korinthos, Greece): In the EQASA kick-off meeting, held at Korinthos – Greece during 2-5 May 2017, the administrative, organizational and financial aspects of the EQASA project were presented and discussed with all partners (mobility plan, action plan, setting up of administrative and quality boards). The basic principles of the European Quality Assurance system in Europe, characteristics of the national QA systems of all partners were also presented and discussed, making simultaneously some initial comparisons between European and Asian systems.

First Seminar (Anna University, India): The First Seminar was conducted at Anna University, Chennai, during 4-6 September 2017. The topics of discussion included the Importance of Quality Assurance & Management (QAM) in Higher Education: Rationale; Key Principles; Concepts; Principles of Good Governance of in Higher Education in relationship to key stakeholders most notably students and employers; Need for QAM and its role to address current challenges in our institution; Principles of Change Management, Building on SWOT analysis: Goal setting, change strategy adapted to your institution; Embedding QAM in organizational structures and roles etc.

Second Workshop (University of Genova, Italy): The objectives of second workshop include: Constituent parts of an internal self-evaluation report (SER), Basic information needed to face an external assessment and to prepare a set of simple metrics necessary for QA purposes, Existing or new organizational structures to collect and collate the information to prepare SER, Preparation of Strategic plan based on SWOT analysis, Technology to help prepare self and external assessment with consideration of national and international standards (eg. regulations, education systems, infrastructure) etc.

EQASA International Conference (B.A.M University, India): The International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Asian and European Universities, was organized by Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India, during 2 – 4 March 2019. Major topics of discussion included Developing a Quality Culture in Higher Education Institutions, and the contribution of National and International Accreditation processes. Representatives from the various participating Universities presented an overview of the National Accreditation framework in their respective countries and presented Case Studies on Program Accreditation and the Institutional Strategies towards Quality Assurance from their respective Universities.

THE EQASA FINAL CONFERENCE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (ANNA UNIVERSITY, INDIA)

The Final Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions was organized on 21.02.2020 and 22.02.2020 by Anna University, Chennai. **The Highlights of the Conference** includes the following:

Prof. M.K. Surappa, Vice Chancellor, Anna University, India welcomed the delegates and shared “Some thoughts on Quality of Higher Education and Research”.

University of Peloponnesse, Greece made a presentation on the “Strategic Planning and the role of Quality Assurance Unit: An Overview and a case study from Greece”. The significance and the various aspects of a good strategic plan and the mechanism for framing one was put forth.

Speaker: Dr.Yiouli Papadamantaki (Project Coordinator, EQASA)

Anna University, India made a presentation on the “Best Practices and Strategic Plan of Anna University”. They also presented a talk on “Institutionalizing Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions: The Lessons Learnt”. The Institutional mechanisms towards Quality Assurance, Best Practices, Strategies and the Challenges were discussed.

Speakers: Prof. Dr. G. Nagarajan and Ms. R. Rajeswari

London Metropolitan University, UK presented the “Strategic Plans, Quality Cultures: A Case Study” where the Institutional mechanism for Strategic Planning and the need to Instill Quality Culture at Programme and Course levels was emphasized through a case study.

Speaker: Prof. John Gabriel

Agora Institute for Knowledge Management, Spain presented on the topic “Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions in India, Nepal and Afghanistan”, in which they made a comparative study of the National framework of QA in these countries.

Speaker: Eva Maria Alvarez Penalba

Mid-Western University, Nepal presented a case study on “Quality Assurance and Accreditation Three-Year Strategic Plan (2020-2022)”. Also presented was the “Linkage between Institutional policy and student’s learning achievement: A case study of MUSOM-BBA Program”.

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Liladhar Tiwari and Dr. Ramesh Khatri

Information and Communication Technology Institute, MCIT, Afghanistan made a presentation on the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation Cell: Quality Assurance Strategic Plan 2019-2024”, in which they presented the role of the QAA Unit in developing a QA Strategy for the Institute and its key aspects.

Speaker: Mr. Abdul Hadi Rashed

Nangarhar University, Afghanistan presented “A Case Study of Veterinary Sciences Department, Nangarhar University: Linkage between QA Policy and Student Learning Achievements” and “Strategic Plan of Nangarhar University, Afghanistan.” Key aspects of the Strategic QA Plan of the University and the impact of the QA policy on Student Learning Achievements were discussed.

Speakers: Mr. Latifullah Ghafoori and Mr. Ezzatullah Saghar

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU), India presented a “Case study on Outcome based learning, Vocational Education Qualification Framework and Strategic Plan of BAMU”. The need for the Strategic Plan to address the key Institutional challenges and opportunities and its reflection on quality framework were discussed.

Speaker: Prof. Sachin Deshmuk

Tribhuvan University, Nepal made presentations on the “Way towards Excellence” and “Strategic Plan of Tribhuvan University (2019-2025)”, in which the Institutional best practices and the outcomes were highlighted.

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Krishna D. Manadhar and Dr. Jagat Krishna Pokharel

Address on Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions

Dr. Yiouli Papadamantaki, Project Coordinator, EQASA addressed the students and staff of Anna University on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions, organized at the Henry Maudslay Hall, Anna University, which was followed by a brief discussion to gather student's perception of quality in higher education.

Visit to the IQAC Office, Anna University, India

The delegates of the Conference were invited to visit the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Anna University, Chennai, India, where they were met by the IQAC Team and former IQAC Director, Prof. Dr. T. Thyagarajan, who highlighted some of the initiatives taken by the Unit towards internalizing quality aspects.

Round Table Conference/ Conclusion of EQASA:

A Round Table Conference was conducted at the end of the conference, which marked the conclusion of EQASA.

The following **Deliverables** were discussed:

1. Scanned copies of Travel Reports, Tickets and Boarding Passes to be submitted (Before end of Feb 2020)
2. Participation Reports for the Final Conference (to be uploaded in the EQASA website by first week of March)
3. Submission of expense statements (to be submitted by the end of February 2020)
4. Strategic Plan for QA (to be submitted by end of first week of March)

PHOTOS TAKEN DURING CONFERENCE:

DAY 01 PRESENTATIONS:



DAY 01: ADDRESS ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF OF ANNA UNIVERSITY, BY DR.YIOULI PAPADAMANTAKI, PROJECT COORDINATOR, EQASA



DAY 01 VISIT TO THE IQAC OFFICE, ANNA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI



DAY 02 PRESENTATIONS:



DAY 02 ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE/CONCLUSION OF EQASA:



PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

DAY 1 : EQASA – 21st FEBRUARY 2020			
Date/ Session	Time	Activities	Speaker/ Moderator
Session 1	09:30 – 10:00	Some thoughts on Quality of Higher Education and Research Prof. M. K. Surappa, VC Anna University	Prof. M. K. Surappa Vice-Chancellor Anna University Chennai 600 025, INDIA
	10:00 – 10:30	Strategic Planning and the role of QA Unit: An Overview and a case study Prof. Yiouli Papadiamantaki Greece	University of Peloponnese, Greece
	10:30 – 11:00	QA in Higher Education Institutions in India Nepal and Afghanistan Ms. Eva María Álvarez Peñalba Agora Institute for Knowledge Management, Spain	Agora Institute for Knowledge Management, Spain
	11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
Session 2	11:15 – 11:45	QAA Three-Year Strategic Plan (2020-2022) Prof. Liladhar Tiwari, PhD Mid-Western University, Nepal	Mid-Western University, Nepal
	11:45 – 12:15	Linkage between institutional policy and students' learning achievement: A case study of MUSOM-BBA Program Dr. Ramesh Khatri Mid-Western University, Nepal	Mid-Western University, Nepal
	12:15 – 12:45	Best Practices and Strategic Plan of Anna University Prof. G. Nagarajan, Anna University	Anna University, India
	01:00 – 02:15	Lunch Break	
Session 3	02:15 – 02:45	Strategic Plans, Quality Cultures: A Case Study Prof. John Gabriel London Metropolitan University, UK	London Metropolitan University, UK

	02:45 – 03:15	Coffee Break	
Session 4	03:15 – 04:45	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Cell : Quality Assurance Strategic Plan 2019-2024 Mr. Abdul Hadi Rashed, Information and Communication Technology Institute (ICTI), MCIT, Afghanistan	Information & Communication Technology Institute, MCIT, Afghanistan
	04:45 – 05:15	A Case Study of Veterinary Sciences Department, Nangarhar University: Linkage between Quality Assurance Policy and Student Learning Achievements & Strategic Plan of Nangarhar University, Afghanistan Latifullah Ghafoori English Faculty, Internal Quality Assurance Manager Ezzatullah Saghar English Faculty, Lead of Center for the Excellence of Quality Assurance	Nangarhar University, Afghanistan

Report by:

Prof. Dr. G. Nagarajan

Director, Centre for International Relations, Anna University, India

Ms. R. Rajeswari

IQAC Campus Coordinator-SAP, Anna University, India