

Development of a distance education course

on

**External Quality
Assurance in
higher education**

Introduction

- Massive movement towards EQA internationally
- Less than half have opted for the creation of a new structure
- Most EQA systems are however only recent
- Countries are at different levels of development
- Most newly created structures are in need of capacity development
- Countries need to construct their systems in line with their development needs

General objective

To help countries to make better choices for the organization/development of their EQA systems, both for:

- The putting in place of a new system; or
- The improvement/benchmarking of existing systems

An appropriate model for *institution-building*

- Training of teams of individuals (3 to 5)
- From QA agencies or ministries of education
- Policy makers and technical level
- Reach out to those who are no « international travellers »
- Less costly and more flexible (part time on the job training)
- Possible to associate instructors from far away places

Course Material based on earlier IIEP research projects

- Project 1: Methodological and organizational options in Accreditation (case studies on the United States, Colombia, The Philippines, Hungary, India)
- Project 2: Mapping, regulation and quality assurance of transnational commercial providers of higher education (case studies on Argentina, Chile, Kenya, Oman, The Philippines and South Africa)

Course material objectives

- Provide participants with **concepts, issues and tools** to develop and sustain their EQA systems.
- Inform participants about the **implications of these different options** and stimulate reflection on their adaptation to different institutional contexts
- Provide participants with a range of examples of **international experiences** concerning the options in EQA
- Draw lessons on « **good or desirable** » **practices** in EQA systems, so that teaching, learning and research practices can be improved.

Instructional modules

External quality assurance:
options for higher education managers

Guide



External quality assurance:
options for higher education managers

Module

Making basic choices
for external quality
assurance systems



Instructional modules

External quality assurance:
options for higher education managers

Module 2

Conducting the
process of external
quality assurance



External quality assurance:
options for higher education managers

Module 3

Setting up and
developing the quality
assurance agency



Instructional modules

External quality assurance:
options for higher education managers

Module

4

Understanding and
assessing quality



External quality assurance:
options for higher education managers

Module

5

Regulating and assuring
the quality of cross-
border providers of
higher education



Course design

- **Independent study** of material and individual reflection on questions and exercises sent by e-mail during the course
- **Group study** session related to each module to discuss individual responses and prepare group submissions
- **Interaction with the IIEP** course team
- **Online debates**

Course Piloting (2006)

- Pilot testing of distance course on EQA for **Anglophone Africa** during fall 2006
- Three months (part time) course
- 14 Organizations from 13 countries
- 74 Participants
- Team of three instructors
- Co-funded by the UNESCO/Division for Higher Education

Course implementation (2007)

- Distance course on EQA for Asia Pacific countries during spring 2007 (ongoing)
- 14 Organizations from 13 countries
- 60 Participants
- Team of three instructors
- Co-organized by UNESCO Bangkok and APQN

Some conclusions

- Course for countries in early stages of development of their EQA systems
- Instructional design based on study material, group work, expert advice and exchange of experience well appreciated
- Contributes towards network building or consolidation
- Needs technical follow and wider capacity building