

Examining Quality Culture in Higher Education Institutions (EQC)

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN FINAL PROJECT WORKSHOP

15 – 17 February 2012, Edinburgh

Deadline: 5 December 2011

1. Introduction

Since October 2009, EUA has coordinated the EC-supported project “Examining quality culture in European higher education institutions (EQC)”, in partnership with the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK) and the Scottish quality assurance agency (QAA Scotland).

In the first phase of this project a survey questionnaire of 222 institutions from 36 countries across Europe contributed to mapping the quality assurance processes and structures in place within higher education institutions (HEIs). The second phase focused on establishing the relationship between formal quality assurance processes and institutional quality culture, through a series of interviews conducted in the first half of 2011 with a selection of HEIs across Europe. The results of the two phases of the project were presented in two studies: *Examining Quality Culture: Part 1 – Quality Assurance Processes in Higher Education Institutions* and *Examining Quality Culture Part 2: Processes and Tools – Participation, Ownership and Bureaucracy*. More information about the project and electronic copies of both publications can be found on the project website: <http://www.eua.be/eqc>

2. Final project workshop

As a final phase in the project, the partners will organise a workshop which will provide an opportunity for quality managers to explore the practical applicability of the conclusions that have come out of the project so far, as well as to discuss challenges and good practices in developing quality cultures in various institutions. The workshop will build on the two reports produced by the project and participants are expected to be familiar with their contents and conclusions.

The workshop will take place in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 15 to 17 February 2012.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- to explore the conclusions of the project
- to exchange experiences on the development of quality cultures in different contexts and
- to collect an inventory of good principles on developing quality cultures

The workshop will explore the following questions:

- How to take full advantage of student and other types of questionnaires and effectively close the feedback loop?
- How to use collected data (such as key performance indicators) in an efficient manner to promote enhancement?
- How to use staff development as a means for enhancing quality?
- How to achieve synergy between internal QA procedures and external QA requirements?
- How to increase participation of staff and students in developing quality cultures?
- How can quality cultures support the implementation of institutional missions and profiles?

3. Programme

Wednesday, 15 February 2012

Afternoon Arrival of participants

20.00 Welcome dinner

Thursday, 16 February 2012

9.00 – 18.00 Plenary and working group sessions

19.30 Dinner

Friday, 17 February 2012

9.00 – 12.30 Concluding plenary sessions

12.30 Lunch and departure of participants

4. Eligibility

Participation in the workshop is open to all EUA member universities from those countries eligible to take part in the Lifelong Learning Programme.¹ Participation is limited to one representative per institution. Representatives will commit to attending the whole workshop. Participants are invited to reflect on the workshop themes before arriving, as active participation will be expected from all participants.

5. Selection criteria

The workshop is limited to a maximum of 30 participants. Selection will be done primarily on the basis of the answers given to questions 4 and 5 on the application form (motivation for applying, responsibilities related to project topic). In addition, the following aspects will be considered:

- Geographical distribution of the universities
- Balance of institutional profiles (ex. multi-faculty, art, other specialised)

6. Terms and conditions for participation

- **Participation fee:** There is no fee for participation in the workshop.
- **Subsistence:** 2 nights' (15 and 16 Feb) accommodation on the basis of a single room with breakfast, and meals during the workshop will be organised and covered by the project.
- **Travel arrangements:** Participants' institutions will be responsible for organising and financing their own travel.
- **The participants are expected to attend all sessions of the workshop.**

7. Applications and the deadline

Individuals interested in participating in the workshop are invited to fill in the online application form available here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TB7KZLN> at the latest by 5 December 2011.

Any questions on the project or the application process should be addressed to egc@eua.be.

¹ EU-27 members states, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Turkey.