



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

**between the
Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
(ANQAHE)**

and the

**European Consortium for Accreditation in
higher education (ECA)**

1 June 2017

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Introduction to the Memorandum of Cooperation

ANQAHE is the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ANQAHE which was established in June, 2007 as a nonprofit nongovernmental organization. It ensures and strengthens quality assurance in higher education of the Arab region; and enhances cooperation between similar quality assurance bodies or organizations in the Arab region and other regional and international quality assurance organizations.

Its purpose is:

- Support, promote and disseminate good practices of quality assurance in higher education in the Arab region and to enhance continuous improvement and capacity building for quality assurance agencies in the region;
- Advise, consult and establish standards and guidelines, to assist the development of new quality assurance agencies in the region;
- Facilitate links and communication between quality assurance agencies;
- Provide a platform for information on quality assurance standards, good practices and professional institutional and program reviewers among member organizations;
- Develop a platform for information on qualification frameworks, recognized educational institutions and accredited programs in the region;
- Support members of ANQAHE to determine the standards of institutions operating across national borders;
- Assist in the development and implementation of credit transfer schemes to enhance the mobility of students between institutions both within and across national borders;
- Provide members of ANQAHE with information on the quality assurance organizations in the Arab region;
- Facilitate research in the field of quality assurance in higher education in the region;
- Where appropriate, represent and promote the interests of the region, e.g., vis-à-vis other networks and international organizations;
- Provide the service of evaluating the quality assurance agencies upon request.

ECA is an association of recognised accreditation and quality assurance agencies in Europe. The vision of ECA is to act as an internationally acknowledged driver of innovation in accreditation and quality assurance in higher education. With its expertise, networking and services ECA contributes to the implementation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), promotes internationalisation of higher education and “state of the art” activities of its members.

Its purpose is:

MoC- ANQAHE and ECA

- to achieve mutual recognition of accreditation and quality assurance decisions, to enhance the conditions for such mutual recognition, especially for joint programmes;
- to provide a platform for mutual learning and disseminating experiences with accreditation and accreditation-like practises;
- to provide transparent information on quality;
- to facilitate the internationalisation of institutions and students;
- and, furthermore, to perform any and all acts relating to the foregoing in the broadest sense.

Recognising a degree of similarity in objectives and the mutual interest in the quality of higher education and higher education institutions, it is in the interests of both organisations to formalise a memorandum of co-operation between the two organisations to establish the objectives, parameters and resources of joint activities and mutual support.

The memorandum responds to the demands of increasing internationalisation in quality assurance and in higher education, and reflects international policy statements of educational leaders in both regions of the world.

The memorandum of cooperation between ANQAHE and ECA covers the following areas:

1. The nature of the relationship between ANQAHE and ECA

By cooperating, ANQAHE and ECA aim to enhance the understanding of each other's priorities, and to promote the strategic and content-related collaboration between both organisations.

2. Overall objectives of this Memorandum

This Memorandum is intended to reinforce and provide a platform for the desired cooperation between ANQAHE and ECA. It aims at strengthening the work of ANQAHE and its member agencies, and the work of ECA and its member agencies, as well as their interrelations, with the overall goal of enhanced global understanding and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. This MoC is intended to facilitate cooperation between ANQAHE and ECA and to set the basis for common projects in areas of mutual interest and benefit. Such key areas are:

- Mutual learning from each other and regular sharing of ideas and experiences
- Mutual recognition of quality assurance decisions
- Facilitation of cross-border higher education and QA
- Promotion of internationalisation of HEIs and of mobility of students
- Establishing transparency tools in the area of HE and QA
- Striving towards excellence and professionalism in our own work
- Developing modern accreditation/external QA systems.

3. Exchange of information

The two organisations will exchange non-confidential policy documents and relevant non-confidential operational information to enable the two organisations to support and learn from each other.

4. Targets

If possible, the following activities will be carried out during the next three years:

- Exchange of staff and the organisation of joint workshops and regular meetings; organisation of a joint conference if financial means can be generated for this purpose

- Comparisons of each other's accreditation procedures; similarity checks and mutual observations
- Establishment of commonly agreed tools and guidelines in the domain of recognition, accreditation and external QA
- The exploration of methodologies to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications between the two regions (especially in the area of joint programmes); pilot projects in this area
- Development of distinctive quality features and certificates handed out for good quality performances of HE in designated areas, such as the quality of internationalisation
- Development of website driven QA transparency tools in both regions

5. Resources

The two organisations will cover their own costs for the cooperation, unless there is project funding available for some fields of collaboration. Active and coordinated fundraising efforts may be initiated in order to reach the above stated goals and carry out the intended activities.

6. Timeline

The timing of the activities will be as agreed between the two organisations. This agreement comes into effect on the date of signing, is valid for a period of three years, and may be renewed by mutual agreement.

7. Agency Officers responsible for managing the Agreement

The President of ANQAHE and the Chair of ECA will have overall responsibility for managing the Memorandum of Cooperation. Either party may delegate the responsibility from time to time in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

8. Signatures

There are two identical copies of this Memorandum, one for each signatory.

President of ANQAHE
Signature:



Chair of ECA
Signature:

