The European Consortium for
Accreditation in Higher Education

CALL FOR PROPOSAL ECA STRATEGIC PROJECTS

1. BACKGROUND

The ECA Board agrees in its meeting held on the 3th December 2020 to open a call in 2021 for proposal, in line with the ECA strategy, to be funded by ECA. The Board informs about it during the GA meeting held on December 18th 2020.

In the pursuance of the purposes, ECA is allocating a small amount of money for supporting the development of projects by its members with the aim of contributing to the strategy of the association and to promote the goals related to higher education quality assurance.

1. WHO CAN APPLY, WHEN AND HOW

This invitation is addressed to ECA members and observers.

Applications, following the template in annex 1, must be submitted to ECA secretariat: secretariat@ecahe.eu before the 28th February 2021. The notification to the successful applicants will be in March 30th, 2021.

Members can apply once every two years. Nevertheless, members can collaborate with other agencies as interagency collaboration is highly encouraged.

Projects granted can have a maximum duration of two years. The agencies involved in a two-years project could apply for a new one, not earlier than three years after the project was granted.

2. WHAT TYPE OF PROPOSALS CAN BE SUBMMITTED

The topic of the project proposal, should be aligned with at least one of the ECA Strategic Priorities

ECA Strategic priorities:

1) Internationalisation and transnational higher education

- QA of transnational education
- Automatic recognition of qualifications
- Enhancing and certifying internationalisation (e.g. Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation, eQuatic project)
- Joint programmes (e.g. implementation of European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes)
- Implications of QA for European Universities.

2) Relating the world of work and higher education
- QA of work-based learning (including relations with Vocational Education and Training, VET)

- Entrepreneurial (higher) education
- Employability and QA

3) Innovation of QA of learning and teaching

- QA and recognition of online learning, blended learning and other innovative forms of formal and non-formal higher education
- Student-centred learning and new learning and teaching modes
- Learning and teaching in institutional reviews, including risk-informed analyses
- New developments and policies regarding equity, research and innovation: implications for QA.

3. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The proposals will be evaluated against the following **criteria**:

 - **Relevance**: justification of the need, which should be in line with the ECA strategic priorities.

- **Feasibility**: justification that the project objectives can be achieved within the proposed time frames and with the resources available.

- **Technical quality of the proposal:** strategic analysis and background data, project methodology and coherency in the design, the management team, budget and costeffectiveness.

 - **Expected impact and benefits:** the expected impact on the QA system and the benefits to the higher education system.

 - **Qualifications and experiences of the management team** in the project

- **Appropriateness of budget** requirements

The proposals will be evaluated against the above criteria by an assessment committee (AC) made up of representatives of two ECA members that will be nominated and appointed by the Board each year. The AC, will send to the Board a proposal of the projects that should be subsidized, together with the evaluation of each project. The Board taking into account the proposal of the AC will finally grant the proposals.

4. FUNDING AND CONDITIONS

ECA will fund up to two proposals in 2021. Available funding is up to 9,500 € for each project.

After finishing the project a final report about the results of the project must be submitted to ECA Board.

Any publication or presentation of results of the project must be approved by the ECA Board in advance. Permission to present or publish project results will not be given until the final report has

been submitted to the ECA Board. A formal review of the final report will be conducted within 30 days of submission. The ECA Board reserves the right to refuse dissemination of research results if the applicant(s) does not adhere to the approved project proposal. A prompt attempt to negotiate a resolution to any disagreement will be conducted.

The European Consortium for
Accreditation in Higher Education

eca