



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency

International Higher Education Conference 2024

"Driving Excellence: Aligning Quality Assurance Policies with Institutional Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement"

24 September 2024

Venue: Emerald Hotel, Pristina



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Description

The quality of management within the higher education institution (HEI) system is assessed through the effectiveness of its alignment with The Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). These standards are designed to be universally applicable to all types of HEIs, regardless of their specialization, location, or mode of program delivery. It falls upon institutions to develop specific internal quality systems, policies, and processes that are robust and continuously enhanced, verified through regular external evaluations.

Given the unique characteristics of each institution, it is anticipated that these internal systems are tailored to suit their individual strategies, operational methods, and environments, thus varying between institutions. They should be customized to attract diverse student segments who will fulfill the qualifications required in the future job market and/or address broader societal needs. Therefore, institutions should formulate their strategic approaches while considering both the institutional and national contexts within which they operate. Their successful achievement depends on the consistent implementation of quality assurance policies across all operational areas and levels of the institution, engaging both internal and external stakeholders in the process. Their future relies on fostering a culture of quality and innovating systems.

The focal point of this conference will be the best practices in achieving quality through the consistent determination and implementation of activities aligned with a predetermined strategy. We will explore the role of strategic management in HEIs in shaping the direction of all system components and stakeholders, and examine how to achieve differentiation and excellence that equally serves the institution and its students, while meeting quality standards and advancing society as a whole.

Attendees

This conference will bring together key local and international stakeholders involved in higher education: experts, institutional leadership, academics, researchers, and practitioners from the field of higher education, along with students and employers, to collectively explore the latest trends, challenges, and practices in strategic quality management of institutions.

International Higher Education Conference 2024

Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

Agenda

Host: Kosovo Accreditation Agency - KAA

Venue: Emerald Hotel, Prishtinë

Date: 24th of September 2024

Topic: Driving Excellence: Aligning Quality Assurance Policies with Institutional Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement

24th of September

- 08:30 – 09:00** Registration of participants
Opening the event. Mrs. Blerta Dibrani, moderator
- 09:00 – 09:10** **Mrs. Hasnija Ilazi**, President of the State Council of Quality - KAA
- 09:10 – 09:20** **Mrs. Arbërie Nagavci**, Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Kosovo
- 09:20 – 09:30** **Mrs. Jasna Duraković**, Federal Minister of Education and Science, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 09:30 – 09:40** **Mr. Ardian Gola**, President of the Committee on Education, Science, Technology, Innovation, Culture and Sports
- 09:40 – 09:50** **Mrs. Aleksandra Zhivkovikj**
Policy and project officer at EQAR – European Quality Assurance Register
- 09:50 – 10:20** **Opening speech/Key speaker**
Mrs. Maja Martinovic, Member of the State Council of Quality – KAA

10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break

10:40 – 12:20 First panel

Topic: International Insights into Quality Assurance: Practices, Challenges, and Innovations

(Moderator: Mr. Gëzim Tosuni, Member of the State Council of Quality – KAA)

Mr. Ronny Heintze, Deputy Director for International Development at AQAS, Germany

Mrs. Danijela Horvatek Tomić, Director of Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE), Croatia

Mrs. Eliza Petrova Stefanova, President National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, Bulgaria

Mrs. Tereza Křepelová, Department of Quality Assurance and Evaluation National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education, Czech Republic

Mr. Rasim Zufferi, Director of the Agency for Quality of Higher Education, North Macedonia

Open discussion

12:20 – 13:40 Lunch

13:40 – 15:00 Second panel

Topic: Accreditation's Role in HE Institutions' Competitiveness

(Moderator: Ms. Maja Martinovic)

Mrs. Metka Tekavčič, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; member of the EQUIS Accreditation Board (EFMD); member of the AACSB International Initial Accreditation Committee; member of the European Advisory Council (EAC).

Mr. Olgun Cicek, Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA), Board Director

Mr. Vedran Jakupovic, Assistant Professor, University of Sarajevo Faculty of Health Studies, Bosnia and Hercegovina

Mr. Zoran Barac, Managing Director of the Zagreb School of Economics and Management (ZSEM), Croatia

Mr. Blerim Saqipi, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Open discussion

15:00 - 15:20

Coffee break

15:20 – 16:10

Third panel:

Topic: The Role of Stakeholders in the Governance Structure of HEIs

Moderator: Mr. Kamal Shahrabi, President of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Kosovo (A.U.K)

Mrs. Metihe Kastrati, Innovative Centre of Kosovo – ICK, Managing Director

Mr. Erjon Hadergjonaj, UBT College Student Union

Mr. Nikolas Bursiewicz, National Union of University Students in Finland - SYL

Open discussion

16:10 – 16:20

Summary

Mr. Jetmir Haxhibeqiri, member of the State Council of Quality - KAA

16:20 – 16:30

Closing remarks

Mr. Naim Gashi, Director of KAA

Our Panelists

We are delighted to introduce a respected array of international and local specialists as speakers for this year's conference. These experts, coming from distinguished higher education establishments, quality assurance organizations and agencies, higher education institutions and other higher education stakeholders, will unite to emphasize and discuss on "Aligning Quality Assurance Policies with Institutional Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement". "From various viewpoints, they will explore the new obstacles and promising possibilities that exist in the global framework for higher education policies."

First panel
Topic: International Insights into Quality Assurance: Practices, Challenges, and Innovations
Mr. Ronny Heintze
Deputy Director for International Development, AQAS, Germany
Mr. Ronny Heintze is the Deputy Director for International Development at the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programs (AQAS) in Germany. With extensive experience in quality assurance in higher education, Mr. Heintze has been instrumental in fostering international collaborations and ensuring the alignment of academic standards across borders. His expertise includes developing and implementing accreditation processes that meet global benchmarks.
Mrs. Danijela Horvatek Tomić
Director, Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE), Croatia
Mrs. Danijela Horvatek Tomić serves as the Director of the Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) in Croatia. She has a distinguished career in higher education, focusing on the evaluation and enhancement of academic programs. Under her leadership, ASHE has strengthened its role in ensuring the quality and competitiveness of Croatia's higher education system on the European and global stages.
Mrs. Eliza Petrova Stefanova
President, National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, Bulgaria
Mrs. Eliza Petrova Stefanova is the President of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency in Bulgaria. With a robust background in education policy and quality assurance, she has led initiatives to enhance the evaluation and accreditation processes within the Bulgarian higher education sector. Her work emphasizes the importance of continuous improvement and innovation in maintaining high academic standards.
Mrs. Tereza Křepelová
Department of Quality Assurance and Evaluation, National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education, Czech Republic
Mrs. Tereza Křepelová is a key figure at the National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education in the Czech Republic, where she works in the Department of Quality Assurance and Evaluation. Her role involves overseeing the accreditation and quality assurance processes to ensure that higher education institutions meet the required standards. She brings a wealth of experience in educational evaluation and policy implementation.
Mr. Rasim Zufferi

Director of the Agency for Quality of Higher Education, North Macedonia
Mr. Rasim Zuferi is the Director of the Agency for Quality of Higher Education in North Macedonia. He oversees the implementation of quality assurance policies and procedures in higher education institutions across the country. With extensive experience in education management and policy development, Rasim plays a key role in advancing the standards of higher education in North Macedonia.

Second panel
Topic: Accreditations' Role in HE Institutions' Competitiveness
Mrs. Metka Tekavčič
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Member of the EQUIS Accreditation Board (EFMD); Member of the AACSB International Initial Accreditation Committee; Member of the European Advisory Council (EAC)
Mrs. Metka Tekavčič is a respected academic at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, with a distinguished career in higher education. She serves as a member of the EQUIS Accreditation Board at EFMD, the AACSB International Initial Accreditation Committee, and the European Advisory Council (EAC). Her extensive experience in accreditation and quality assurance has significantly contributed to the global advancement of educational standards.
Mr. Olgun Cicek
Board Director, Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA)
Mr. Olgun Cicek serves as the Board Director of the Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). With a strong background in quality assurance, he plays a pivotal role in enhancing educational standards across the region. His leadership and expertise are instrumental in driving initiatives that ensure the consistent and rigorous evaluation of higher education institutions, fostering collaboration and improvement throughout the member agencies.
Mr. Vedran Jakupovic
Assistant Professor, University of Sarajevo Faculty of Health Studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr. Vedran Jakupovic is an Assistant Professor at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Health Studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With a strong academic background and a commitment to advancing health education, he contributes to the development of future healthcare professionals. His research and teaching efforts focus on improving healthcare outcomes through quality education and innovative practices.
Mr. Zoran Barac
Managing Director, Zagreb School of Economics and Management (ZSEM), Croatia
Mr. Zoran Barac is the Managing Director of the Zagreb School of Economics and Management (ZSEM) in Croatia. Under his leadership, ZSEM has grown into a leading institution in the region, known for its high standards in business education. Mr. Barac's expertise in management and education has been pivotal in driving the school's success and international recognition.
Mr. Blerim Saqipi
Dean of Faculty of Education, University of Prishtina, Kosovo
Mr. Blerim Saqipi is the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Prishtina in Kosovo. He is dedicated to advancing education in Kosovo through innovative teaching practices and rigorous academic standards. As an expert in educational reform, Mr. Saqipi's work focuses on improving teacher education and fostering a culture of continuous improvement within the educational system.

Third panel:
Topic: The Role of Stakeholders in the Governance Structure of HEIs
Mrs. Metihe Kastrati
Managing Director, Innovative Centre of Kosovo (ICK)
Mrs. Metihe Kastrati is the Managing Director of the Innovative Centre of Kosovo (ICK), where she leads initiatives to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in Kosovo. With a strong background in business development and leadership, Mrs. Kastrati has been instrumental in driving the growth of the startup ecosystem in Kosovo. Her efforts focus on empowering young entrepreneurs and creating opportunities for innovation in various sectors.
Mr. Erjon Hadergjonaj
UBT College Student Union
Mr. Erjon Hadergjonaj is an active representative of the UBT College Student Union. As a student leader, he advocates for student rights and works to enhance the academic and social environment at UBT College. His role involves coordinating activities that support student engagement and ensuring that the student body has a strong voice in institutional decision-making processes.
Mr. Nikolas Bursiewicz
National Union of University Students in Finland (SYL)
Mr. Nikolas Bursiewicz represents the National Union of University Students in Finland (SYL), where he works to promote the interests and welfare of university students across Finland. His work includes advocating for educational policies that benefit students and enhancing the quality of higher education. Mr. Bursiewicz is dedicated to ensuring that students have access to high-quality education and that their rights are protected within the academic community.

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