

## INQAAHE 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference 2023

### Call for Proposals

## *Roadmap to Enabling Quality in Tertiary Education 2030*

5-8 June 2023

Nur-Sultan

Proudly hosted by IQAA, Kazakhstan

The International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) invites you to submit proposals for our 2023 INQAAHE Conference. We are looking for proposals that promote participants' learning and professional development, inform practice, and promote discussion. Proposals can be based on new research or innovative practice, or other experiences or initiatives. We are also looking for proposals that promote participants' engagement and interaction.

The deadline for submissions is **30 November 2022**.

### Conference Theme

#### *Roadmap to Enabling Quality in Tertiary Education 2030*

Over the past years the international education community has been faced with a range of challenges and opportunities associated with the Sustainable Development Goals of ensuring 'inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all' (SDG 4).

Pandemics, conflicts, climate emergencies and economic crises are threatening continued and equitable access to higher education to wide sectors of world population. At the same time digital technologies, flexible learning pathways, innovative approaches to internationalisation, and inclusive education practices,

have demonstrated their potential to secure and widen equitable access to quality education and support life-long learning.

These challenges and opportunities have been chartered in the UNESCO's Roadmap to 2030 *Beyond Limits: New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education*, which expresses 'an urgent call for renewed thinking, dialogue, and transformative action', setting 'signposts for co-creating more open, inclusive, equitable and collaborative higher education systems.'

The INQAAHE Conference 2023 endeavours to provide a platform to discuss the role that quality assurance can and must play to support progress along this Roadmap towards innovative, flexible and inclusive solutions to support the global agenda on widening access to tertiary education.

The Conference theme is explored through the following key sub-themes:

1. **Fostering quality of flexible learning pathways:** This theme provides a space to discuss a range of quality assurance issues and emerging quality assurance practices (internal and external) related to supporting life-long learning and access to tertiary education through flexible pathways. This might include, for example, quality assurance aspects related to micro-credentials, recognition of prior formal, and informal learning, the role of national and regional qualifications frameworks and recognition issues, work-based learning, articulations between institutions, courses, and educational levels, mobility programmes of different kinds, or other non-traditional pathways to qualifications.
2. **Digitalization of teaching and learning without compromising quality:** This theme offers an opportunity to discuss the quality assurance challenges and opportunities associated with digital technology and online learning as an effective and efficient means to widen access to quality higher education. This might include key challenges to address in the quality assurance and recognition of online or blended learning, lessons learned from the quality assurance community in response to the global pandemic, innovative approaches to quality assuring online learning, or using digital technology in quality assurance, or other quality assurance aspects associated with the use of digital technology in education delivery and/or quality assurance.
3. **Quality assurance of cross-border education:** This theme encourages discussion on the potential of programme and institutions' cross-border mobility, and international academic partnerships, to widen global access to quality education and associated quality assurance challenges. This might include different approaches to quality assuring cross-border education, ensuring comparability with home campus provision and responding to the needs of the local context of delivery, challenges to the quality assurance of specific models of cross-border education, cross-border cooperation in the quality assurance of cross-border education, and other quality assurance aspects related to the cross-border mobility of programmes or institutions.

4. **Core values and quality of higher education:** [INQAAHE's values](#) - *inclusiveness, integrity, independence, academic freedom, collaboration, internationalization, and diversity* - directly support the direction for the transformation of tertiary education set out in the UNESCO HE Roadmap2030. Thus, this theme encourages discussion on specific ways the quality assurance community can safeguard and foster these values in times of rapid change and disruptions, helping to shape resilient tertiary education systems through a shared value system that also respects and fosters diversity. Contributions may identify internal or external quality assurance and enhancement practices that support and contribute to the INQAAHE's core values; or prompt reflection on other core values that should guide quality assurance and the wider mission of tertiary education institutions.

Across these themes our overarching interest is the role that quality assurance can play in developing enabling environments for widening access and strengthening the core values of tertiary education. Such exploration of new roles should also recognize the continuing need of QA to secure public confidence in quality and standards of tertiary education, however and wherever this is delivered, and in consideration of associated challenges, different experiences, and best practices.

The Conference will open-up a range of opportunities for you to delve deeper into these themes and issues through:

- Pre-Conference workshops;
- Conference Sessions (in different formats);
- Regional networks meeting;
- Posters.

## Conference sessions

Conference sessions may take one of the following formats:

- a) Multi-speaker sessions: 55 minutes with 3 speakers (10-minutes each) offering perspectives on a topic with facilitated Q & A.
- b) Active learning sessions: A 55-minute session that engages participants by creating a dynamic, interactive learning experience through the use of small groups, individual hands-on activities, engagement in scenarios, etc.
- c) Conversation sessions: A 55-minute session in which an idea or a specific QA practice is presented to participants for 10-15 minutes, followed by discussion among all participants. The content leader will actively facilitate the discussion by asking questions, raising challenges, providing and asking for examples, making observations and encouraging responses, and otherwise facilitating discussion. These sessions may be led by an individual or group of individuals from the same organization, or a group of individuals from multiple organizations.

Submissions are invited for individual 10-minute presentations to contribute to Multi-speaker sessions, or for whole 55-minute Active learning or Conversation sessions.

There is a limit to the numbers of proposals that can be selected. Therefore, we will only select those proposals that clearly address topics relevant to one of the sub-themes and are appropriate to the intended session format.

Each proposal should set out the following:

- The intended session format;
- The selected Conference sub-theme;
- The specific topic covered;
- The presenter(s);
- The organization(s) of the presenter(s);
- A 100 - 150-word abstract;
- An outline description of no more than 1,000 words;
- The aims and intentions of the author(s) for the presentation;
- For active learning and conversation sessions, the approach adopted to deliver the session and engage participants, including any specific audio-visual requirements.
- Whether the presenter(s) would like to have their proposals considered for publication in Quality in Higher Education

Each proposal must be labelled as follows:

- Type of session format, number of the subtheme, last name of the author/co-authors (i.e. b, 2\_martin-jara, which means it is a proposal for an active learning sessions under subtheme 2, submitted by Martin and Jara).

### ***Proposals for publication***

Please note, presenters who are interested in having their proposals considered for publication in Quality in Higher Education will be invited to submit a full paper before the Conference. Guidance on paper submissions will be provided in due time.

### **Poster Proposals**

Poster formats are a great way for delegates to present their quality assurance practices. They often open up discussions between delegates on a range of aspects related to the practices and create opportunities for presenters to get feedback on these.

Posters will be exhibited in areas where delegates will take their breaks, and a dedicated session is reserved in the programme for contributors to present their posters.

Proposals for poster presentations on any topic related to one of the sub-themes may be submitted for consideration. Poster presentations can be in electronic or physical format.

Each poster should contain:

- The topic title;
- The name(s) of the presenter(s) and their organisations; and
- A combined textual and graphic description of the topic with the assistance of tables, drawings or charts.

A poster proposal should:

- Identify the presenter(s);
- Identify the organization of the presenter(s);
- Include information on the title or topic;
- Include an abstract explaining the intent of the poster;
- Be no more than 250 words in length;
- The aims and intentions of the author(s) for the presentation;

Each poster proposal must be labelled as follows:

- The file must be identified in the following way: p\_last name of the author/co-authors - (i.e. p\_martin-jara, which means it is a poster presented by Martin and Jara).

## Deadline and Timelines

The following are the deadline and timelines for submissions:

- **30 November 2022:** all paper and poster proposals must be submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat.
- **20 January 2023:** contributors are notified on their paper or poster acceptance.
- **15 March 2023:** the final version of papers and posters are submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat.
- **30 April 2023:** publication of the Conference materials is completed.

## Conference Registration

Please note that in submitting a proposal, all authors are accepting that, if selected, it is their responsibility to register for the Conference. Information on registration fees will be available on the INQAAHE as well as Conference website.

Proposals should be sent to: [secretariat@inqaahe.org](mailto:secretariat@inqaahe.org).



## Contact Us

For further information and questions regarding the submission of proposals, please contact the INQAAHE office at:

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education  
(INQAAHE)

Enric Granados 33

08007 Barcelona, SPAIN

Tel: +34 93 268 89 50

Email: [secretariat@inqaahe.org](mailto:secretariat@inqaahe.org)