

Subject	External Quality Assurance
Module	Networks Of External Quality Agencies
Topic	3.13 Relations Between Networks

This text version is for your personal study only. Reproduction and/or redistribution is not allowed.

Please note that this is a text-only version. All links and animations are not activated in this version. It is recommended that you view the topic online for an interactive learning experience.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Collaboration among EQA Networks and Agencies
3. Discussion
4. Summary

1. Introduction



This topic discusses INQAAHE's initiatives to increase its collaboration with other networks, as well as encourage co-operation among global, regional and special interest QA networks. In no small part, these initiatives are intended to promote the network concept, and a wider awareness of the potential and actual influence of networks.

Objectives: Relations Between Networks

Upon completion of this topic, you should be able to

- describe INQAAHE's role in encouraging collaboration among global, regional and special interest networks

2. Collaboration among EQA Networks and Agencies

When INQAAHE was established, it was the only international network of QA agencies. Now its entire constituency is touched by, or involved in networks - in the case of some countries more than one. The question is whether there is need for a global network as well as regional and special interest ones; and if so, what are the appropriate respective roles?

After discussing this for some years, INQAAHE produced a position paper in 2007 entitled 'Working Together'. This paper outlines some ideas about what can best be done at the global and local levels, and affirms INQAAHE's willingness to work with other networks as they jointly see fit. INQAAHE has signed memoranda of co-operation with several networks, setting forth the desired emphasis of cooperative efforts.

Reading: Working Together

Click the link below to read INQAAHE's statement on collaboration:

[Networks of Quality Agencies: Working Together](#)

There is also the matter of collaboration between other networks. Networks are groups of agencies. Today there is a considerable number of networks, so one may ask what the relationship is between these entities. It does not make much sense to

Subject	External Quality Assurance
Module	Networks Of External Quality Agencies
Topic	3.13 Relations Between Networks

contemplate 'groups of networks', but just as agencies find similar issues of interest and can benefit from sharing ideas about them, the same is true for networks. Several networks are sharing ideas or cooperating in projects. To facilitate this inter-regional interaction, without building yet another structure, INQAAHE convenes occasional meetings of network representatives, distributes information from the various networks and has designated Board members for network liaison.

3. Discussion

Discussion: Collaboration among EQA Networks

What are the benefits of, and what are the best mechanisms for achieving, relations between networks?

Specifically, what is the potential of problem- or issue-oriented collaboration?

4. Summary

This topic covered the following main points:

- INQAAHE's paper titled "Working Together" outlines some thoughts to increase collaboration and states INQAAHE's willingness to work with other QA networks.
- Many QA networks worldwide are sharing ideas or cooperating in projects. To facilitate inter-regional co-operation among QA networks, INQAAHE convenes occasional meetings of network representatives, distributes information from the various networks and assigns responsibility to its Board members for network liaison.