

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS INQAAHE FORUM 2026

The Board of Directors of INQAAHE presents this call for proposals to host:

### INQAAHE Forum 2026

The INQAAHE Forum is a biennial gathering of quality assurance professionals from around the world to discuss emerging issues and best practice in tertiary education quality assurance. The event offers an enhancement platform for QA professionals and HE policymakers and other key stakeholders through interactive exchange modalities amongst practitioners and experts. The Forum features a 2-day event around ongoing and emerging quality-related issues delivered through interactive learning sessions and networking events. The Forum starts with a series of workshops aimed at professional development of quality assurance and tertiary education staff and decision-makers. It also includes a dedicated meeting with regional networks of quality assurance and tertiary education institutions from all over the world as well as the INQAAHE General Assembly meeting.



INQAAHE Forum 2020 – Moscow (online)



INQAAHE Forum 2022 – Mexico City (Mexico)

**Preliminary proposals (expression of interest) due: ~~January 31~~ February 21, 2024**

**Final proposals due: ~~March 31~~ April 21, 2024**

This preliminary proposal (expression of interest) should include 2-3 pages of relevant information, as outlined in the proposal guidelines. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a more detailed final proposal. If the proposal meets the general requirements, applicants will be invited to give a short presentation at the INQAAHE Forum in June 2024 in Bucharest (Romania), where the INQAAHE General Assembly will vote on the winning proposal.

Previous Fora:

Muscat 2004, The Hague 2006, Buenos Aires 2008, Windhoek 2010, Melbourne, 2012, Tallinn 2014, Fiji 2016, Mauritius 2018, Moscow 2020, Mexico City 2022, Bucharest 2024.

# INQAAHE Forum 2024 Proposal Guidelines

## General Considerations

An in-person event is the preferred option.

Given the local context and considering that there may still be a need to follow health or security protocols, the host shall address matters that appertain to their readiness for such measures.

## Participants

The Board of INQAAHE seeks expressions of interest from member agencies in hosting the biennial Forum of 2026.

## Overview of Process

The process includes a preliminary proposal and once approved, a full proposal and presentation for the General Assembly, according to the following timeline:

- ~~January 31~~, **February 21**, 2024: Preliminary proposal (expression of interest) due. This document should include 2-3 pages of relevant information, as outlined in the proposal guidelines.
- ~~February 8~~ **February 29**, 2024: The INQAAHE Board approves applications that meet the general requirements and invites applicants to submit a more detailed final proposal.
- ~~March 31~~, **April 21**, 2024: Final proposals are due from the invited finalists.
- June 2024: Presentation to the General Assembly of INQAAHE during the INQAAHE Forum 2024 in Bucharest (Romania).

## Benefits of Hosting

The INQAAHE Forum is an excellent opportunity to have firsthand exposure to quality assurance practices internationally, introduce QA professionals from around the world to your tertiary education system and culture, and to demonstrate leadership internationally. Hosts are encouraged to invite a wide range of participants from their local context, to experience the discussions and exchange with attendees. Typically, high-level officials from the host country participate in the ceremonial activities, enhancing the profile of the agency within its own country. Hosting can have some financial benefit as well, depending on costs and ability to gain sponsorships. Above all, hosting is a tremendous service to all the professionals of INQAAHE.

## Geographical Considerations

Agencies interested in hosting an event should note that, to provide the Network members the greatest opportunity for attendance, it is not the practice to hold events in the same region or continent where a recent Conference or Forum took place, if alternate locations are available.

The location should ensure the ability of the membership to travel to the proposed location and membership safety. Considering the venues for the INQAAHE annual events for the last ten years, *preferences* for hosting the INQAAHE Forum 2024 will be given to the following regions:

- Pacific
- South America and the Caribbean
- Arab States
- North America, and

- Africa.

**Fora** have been recently (or will be) held in the following locations: Windhoek 2010, Melbourne 2012, Tallinn 2014, Fiji 2016, Mauritius 2018, Moscow 2020, Mexico 2022, Bucharest 2024.

In addition, INQAAHE's larger, biennial **Conferences** have been (or will be) held in the following locations: Madrid 2011, Taipei 2013, Chicago 2015, Manama 2017, Colombo 2019, Glasgow 2021, Astana 2023, Tokyo 2025.

### Forum Dates

The proposed dates of the Forum should not fall on or near major religious holidays and observances, for the convenience and safety of attendees. Generally acceptable date ranges are mid-April to mid-May or mid-June 2026.

### Target Audience

Quality assurance organizations staff and decision-makers, tertiary education academic and non-academic teaching staff, senior administrative staff, researchers and other stakeholders engaged in quality assurance of tertiary education and recognition of qualifications.

### Forum Structure

The typical structure of the Forum has been as follows although is subject to improvements and adjustments over time.

Day 1: Pre-Forum. Four longer workshops are offered in two time slots, followed by a large regional networks meeting.

Day 2 and 3: Opening events, concurrent workshops, plenary sessions, a gala dinner and a general assembly meeting.

Day 4: Optional cultural events or tours. (Arranged by the host. Costs do not need to be included in the Forum fee.)

In addition, the INQAAHE Board of Directors typically meets the day before the Forum begins and on Day 4.

## Application Steps and Requirements

There will be three basic steps to completing the application, review, and final selection process.

The **first step** will be submission of a brief preliminary proposal to the INQAAHE Secretariat expressing an interest in hosting the Forum. The preliminary proposal must include a letter of intent and responses to a required set of parameters. The Board will complete a review and inform the applicant of its willingness to entertain submission of a full application.

The **second step** will be the submission of a full application which responds in detail to all requirements outlined below. All full applications will be submitted to the INQAAHE Secretariat and reviewed by the Board for completeness prior to distribution to the INQAAHE membership for voting at the General Assembly meeting. The Board reserves the right to ask for additional information with regards to any submitted application prior to sharing it with the INQAAHE membership if any aspect of the proposal requires clarification or shows cause for concern.

All applications deemed by the Board to be complete with no cause for concern will be distributed to the INQAAHE voting membership, along with a comparison grid of the applications against the application requirements. This grid will be developed by the Board to provide greater ease of review by the voting members.

The **third and final step** will be the presentation of the final set of accepted applications to the INQAAHE voting membership at the General Assembly meeting.

### Step I – Submission of the Preliminary Proposal

Interested member agencies must submit their brief preliminary proposal by January 31, 2024, in order to be considered for review. These proposals are intended to provide a general overview of information and are not expected to include detailed information on each item listed below. Thus, the preliminary proposal should be no more than 2-3 pages in length.

The preliminary proposal must include a formal letter of intent to host the INQAAHE Forum, and information addressing the following items:

- Name of hosting organization and type of INQAAHE membership;
- Proposed location of the INQAAHE event:
- A statement of reasons for wanting the INQAAHE event in the proposed location, including the perceived positive impact on INQAAHE, as well as the region, should an INQAAHE Forum be held in the proposed location;
- Brief description of experience in hosting conferences and other meetings, including a description of the agency's prior involvement at INQAAHE Conferences or Fora;
- Brief outline of staff support available for event planning;
- Travel considerations, including ease of travelling to the proposed INQAAHE Forum location, ability for attendees to obtain visas, or an explanation of how the host agency plans to deal with any barriers that might impede access to the event by the full membership of INQAAHE;
- Average living cost for attendees in the country/at the Forum venue.

The INQAAHE Board will notify all potential applicants of its decisions to accept or reject the preliminary proposals that were submitted for review. The Board will only ask agencies to submit full proposals if there is sufficient reason to believe that there is adequate support and experience for hosting an INQAAHE event. All agencies whose preliminary proposals are accepted by the Board will be asked to submit a full application for hosting the event.

## Step II – Submission of the Final Application

Final applications for hosting the INQAAHE Forum must be submitted by March 31, 2024.

The application must cover all of the following requirements outlined below and include documented evidence to support the narrative but may also include other information on matters which the applicant deems relevant.

### 1. Official Support

#### a. Host Agency

The applicant should be a **Full member of INQAAHE** and the application must be made by the chief officer of the agency acting for and on behalf of the governing authority of the agency.

#### b. Sponsoring Ministry or Agency

It is highly desirable that the application is accompanied by supporting documentation from the relevant ministry or similar body, particularly where financial or other support from the ministry is an essential part of the application.

### 2. Location and Space

#### a. Venue

Applicants should bear in mind the considerable distances and cost incurred by delegates in travelling to the INQAAHE Forum. Ready access to a hub airport and a centre city location is very desirable. There should be available parking near or at the venue for those travelling by car. The venue should have a lift/ramp to all floors/rooms. It is considered particularly convenient when the INQAAHE event venue and principal hotel are in the same location.

#### b. Plenary room

The plenary room must have a capacity for up to 300 participants. The speaker(s) and/or workshop facilitator(s) must be visible for all participants. There should be a stage, preferably with a lectern. AV facilities and easy access to toilets should be available. Natural light has the preference.

#### c. Available breakout rooms

There must be a sufficient number of rooms for the INQAAHE Forum. Generally, a room large enough to hold all participants is required for plenary sessions and up to four or more additional rooms are usually required for parallel break-out sessions. Rooms for parallel sessions should be close enough to allow participants to get to the session location within a limited amount of time. AV facilities and easy access to toilets should be available. There should be a pleasant general ambience.

#### d. Registration Area

The Registration Area should be easily accessible and big enough to receive all participants. It should have a capacity for up to 300 participants. Rooms or space for networking is considered desirable.

**e. Poster sessions**

Space should be provided somewhere in the venue for accepted poster sessions from members.

**f. Board Room**

The INQAAHE Board may hold more than one meeting during the event. The host agency is expected to make all the necessary arrangements related to the facility, room, and refreshments for the two Board meetings of approximately 14 persons.

**g. Technology**

Attendees should have access to wi-fi services throughout the Forum venue. All presentation spaces should be equipped with the capacity to project presentations electronically. In case of a hybrid event, it will be necessary to provide access to teleconference facilities to accommodate remote access for those attending virtually.

**h. Refreshments**

Typically hosts provide a midday meal, as well as coffee and tea services at least twice a day. The host's plan for these arrangements should be reflected in the budget.

**i. Social Programme**

The Forum typically includes a gala dinner where awards are given, and the attendees can enjoy a meal that reflects the traditions of the host. While hosts will wish to promote the national or regional culture and cuisine of the country, it is best for the host to provide a variety of food options that can appeal to participants from a variety of world regions.

The gala dinner need not be extravagant but should be planned with care to ensure a pleasant event. Often there is a cultural presentation of some kind. The host's plans for these arrangements should be reflected in the budget. While the cost can come from the event fees, past experience has shown that local or corporate sponsorship can be particularly welcome in meeting these substantial costs.

Similarly, an informal reception to facilitate networking and conversation should take place at some point during the Forum and should be reflected in the budget.

**j. Pre-Forum Workshops**

The day preceding the Forum opening is devoted to applied workshops. These are usually held in or adjacent to the main event facility. The host agency provides facilities for these workshops and an additional registration fee is charged. In general, workshops are held in the morning and in the afternoon and while coffee breaks should be arranged, lunch does not have to be provided free of charge. Workshops that are linked to an INQAAHE event may also be accessible for non-INQAAHE members.

**k. Pre- and Post-Forum cultural events**

These cultural activities can enhance attendees' experience at the Forum and hosts are encouraged to arrange activities, if convenient. There is not an expectation that the host will pay the costs of tour activities.

**3. Hotel and transportation**

**a. Hotel**

Delegates represent a wide range of agencies and while 4\* and 3\* hotels are required for most delegates; some budget accommodation should also be available. Rooms at the principal hotel should have internet access.

**b. Transport access**

The meeting venue should be in, or very near, the main INQAAHE Forum hotel. Other accommodation should be close to the venue with ease of access through walking or public transportation. It is desirable from the point of view of delegates and organisers that coaching to the venue is not required. If required, transportation from the main(s) hotel(s) to the event venue and back must be covered by the host. In addition, the host should provide transportation to the gala dinner if it is not easily accessible by walking or public transportation.

**4. Administration and Coordination**

**a. Management Structure**

The application document should set out the management and administrative structure which the hosts will make available in preparing for and in the administration of the INQAAHE Forum. In particular, clear lines of responsibility should be specified. Should there be more than one agency involved in the bid, the membership of the local organising committee should be described. In all organisation matters, the host agency via a single appointed representative will report on a regular basis to the INQAAHE Secretariat.

**b. Staffing**

Assigning adequate administrative support to the organization and management of the INQAAHE Forum is of paramount importance to guarantee a successful event. Applications should, therefore, outline the staffing and other resources which will be made available to insure a well-organized event. The application should outline the support that will be made available both before and during the event with regards to handling registrations and other aspects of organisation.

Prior to the event, the agency should communicate regarding its staffing capacity to conduct the preparations for hosting, including visa assistance, payment and registration processing, marketing and website development, and other promotion and planning.

For the period during the event, the agency should communicate regarding its staffing plan (staff, contractors, volunteers) to register and assist attendees, run technologies, and ensure attendees find events in a timely manner. Back-office facilities where event management can occur should be available to the host staff and the INQAAHE Secretariat. This includes access to phones, fax, e-mail, facilities, photocopier and printer. "Hot-desking" is normal in these circumstances.

**c. Visa Assistance and Invitations**

The host is responsible for assisting registrants with travel, accommodation, and visa requirements. The host should facilitate the visa process, including providing letters of invitation where necessary.

**5. Marketing and Promotion**

**a. Forum Website**

The event website is the most critical aspect of an INQAAHE Forum activity and the most expensive. A successful bid agency is likely to have a very good website for their own



purposes and must investigate and propose a satisfactory event website. It is likely that registration and hotel bookings will be made online (whether in conjunction with local organisers or not) and time spent in planning the website will avoid considerable frustration at a later stage. A host should have the capacity to create and manage the website and registration mechanisms with very little administrative support from INQAAHE.

The information on the website should be clearly communicated and the graphic design should be attractive. The website should motivate attendees to register for the Forum, as well as provide them with all the necessary logistical details required for their planning.

At a minimum, the website should feature information on speakers, workshops, draft programme, venue and accommodations, transportation and visa assistance, and welcome messages from INQAAHE leadership and hosts. Participants should be able to register for the Forum through the website and make payment arrangements.

#### **b. General promotion**

Most advertising and recruitment for the event is conducted electronically. The host will be responsible for creating electronic marketing materials, such as attractive emails and blog posts, as well as creating a proposed marketing schedule. The host should also market the Forum in its own region at various conference and events, as applicable. The host will be responsible for developing targeted invitees and attendees in its region and reaching out to individuals and groups for participation.

In addition, it is useful to have at least one professional looking hard-copy material to bring to various conferences to promote the upcoming Forum.

#### **c. Onsite materials**

Hosts should have a plan for onsite promotion and programme distribution, such as notebooks/bags/etc. Attendees should receive, whether in hard copy or electronically (such as an app) a list of other attendees, programme, any official documents necessary for the General Assembly meeting.

#### **d. Post-Forum promotion**

It is desirable to have post-Forum promotion of particular sessions or workshops. The hosts should consider how they will plan for this during the Forum (once the programme is determined), such as taking video of a popular session.

### **6. Budget**

#### **a. Financial Arrangements - Forum**

The biennial INQAAHE Forum and the workshops are organised on the basis that no financial liability falls on the Network. All costs are met from delegate fees (which must be approved by the INQAAHE Board), sponsorship or other support secured by the host agency. INQAAHE will expect to receive a fixed amount from the registration fee, normally 70 USD per head, and a 50% share in any surplus, although the Network will not be responsible for any deficit, which will fall to the host agency. In the event that the Forum meetings are held at a hotel that offers complimentary staff rooms, those rooms should be split between the host and the INQAAHE secretariat.

#### **b. Financial Arrangements - Pre-Forum Workshops**

INQAAHE pre-Forum workshops are held on a programme discussed with the hosts and decided by the Programme Committee and Board and attract a separate fee. Presenters at

these workshops give their services on a pro bono basis. Surpluses from these workshops form part of the Network income and should be reimbursed to the Secretariat at the conclusion of the event. Note that accommodation and travel expenses for the workshop presenters should be on economy class and covered by the host.

**c. Budget**

A preliminary budget should be submitted that reflects the various events and requirements throughout the guidance. It should reflect the proposed sources of revenue to support the Forum (fees, sponsorships, other support).

In the final budget, expenses should include, but are not limited to the following costs: venue, staffing and administration, opening reception, transportation for participants to all events, lunch and tea/coffee, gala dinner, informal reception, event badges/bags and other materials, small gifts for pre-Forum workshop presenters and keynote speakers, economy travel and accommodation for pre-Forum workshop presenters and keynote speakers, facility and refreshments for Board meetings, marketing and promotion costs, website, visa assistance, and any exhibition costs.

**7. Additional Sources of Support**

**a. Exhibitors**

The host committee should indicate whether a trade exhibition or similar will be organised and the proposed fees for exhibitors.

**b. Sponsorships**

The host should indicate the extent to which sponsorships will contribute to the overall budget, as well as the organization's experience in pursuing funding. Note that all sponsorships are subject to approval by the INQAAHE Board.

**8. Fees**

**a. Forum and Workshop Fees**

The host will propose a fee range that the members will know prior to voting. The INQAAHE General Assembly is sensitive to fees due to the wide diversity in ability to pay across regions and countries. For reference, Forum 2024 fees were voted at 550 USD for the Forum, 100 USD for one pre-Forum workshop, and 150 USD for two pre-Forum workshops. Proposals above this amount may have some challenges being approved. The final proposal should discuss the extent to which sponsorships or other creative measures may be used to keep costs reasonable for members.

**b. Payment Mechanism**

The host must have the financial and legal capacity to collect payments in a timely manner from registrants from countries around the world. Onsite payment is highly discouraged.

**c. Tracking System**

The host should have the capacity to track and regularly report on registrations, as well as keep INQAAHE funds in a dedicated account. The host will be expected to report registration progress at agreed intervals, as well as provide complete registration lists to INQAAHE prior to the Forum and updated lists after the Forum.

**9. Special Attendees**

**a. Local Delegates**

One of the major benefits of hosting an INQAAHE Forum is to spread local awareness of global activities in quality assurance. Host agencies will usually wish to have a number of local delegates at the INQAAHE Biennial event and delegate fees from local delegates can be particularly welcome.

However, it is important that the proportion of local to international delegates does not distort the nature or purpose of the event, particularly in the case of the Forum as the overall attendance is smaller than the Conference. Local organisers are welcome to precede or follow the Forum with a short (one day) workshop for local participants.

**b. Board Guests**

Guests of the INQAAHE Board represent major international bodies such as UNESCO and are not charged a delegate fee.

**c. Keynote Speakers and Pre-Forum Workshop Facilitators**

Transport, hotel, and registration costs (and relatively modest gifts) to keynote speakers and Pre-Forum Workshop facilitators are covered by the host agency. At least 4 and up to 6 keynote speakers and pre-Forum workshop facilitators will participate in the event. Guests of the host agency at the opening ceremony and social events and the costs incurred are met by the host agency. They are usually representatives of sponsors including those of the Education Ministry.

**d. Accompanying Persons Programme**

Accompanying persons are those who accompany delegates to the INQAAHE Forum but do not participate in the official event programme. For accompanying persons who plan to attend any of the INQAAHE event receptions or dinner functions, additional charges may be assessed to the registration fee to cover these costs. In addition, a listing of optional activities should be available to accompanying persons which may result in further additional charges. These activities may run parallel to main INQAAHE Forum sessions. The nature of these activities depends on the event location, but it is usually not advisable to arrange coach tours to distant locations. The provision of good staff members with local knowledge from the host agency to lead optional tours or shopping trips is probably of more importance.

**e. Arrangements for delegates from less developed countries**

Sponsorship from local commercial or public agencies to assist the participation of delegates from less developed countries (LDCs) and low-income countries (LIC) will be particularly welcomed by the Board. In addition, host agencies are asked to consider offering reduced fees for participants from LDCs and LICs. (Note: Less developed countries as defined by the [World Bank](#) and the [United Nations](#)).

**10. Governance**

**a. INQAAHE event programme committee**

The Board appoints a Programme Committee to which the hosts nominate one representative. The Program Committee shall plan the detailed schedule for the Forum, arrange for workshop presenters, give guidelines to the presenters, and liaise with the Board and the Local Organising Committee. The INQAAHE Board will approve the following, based on the advice of this committee: Forum theme, keynote speaker(s), workshop facilitator(s), event programme, organizational timeline, budget, registration fees, and venue changes.

**b. Local Organising Committee**

The host is encouraged to form a local organising committee to oversee and support the responsibilities of the host.

#### **11. Timing of the event**

##### **a. Dates**

The proposed dates of the Forum should not fall on or near major religious holidays and observances, for the convenience and safety of attendees. Generally acceptable date ranges are from mid-April to mid-May or mid-June 2024. Dates should be specified in the bid.

#### **12. Contribution of the INQAAHE event to enhancing QA in HE in the host country**

The bid document may outline particular contributions, which the event may present in developing a quality culture in tertiary education in the host country.

### **Step III – Presentation of Proposals at the General Assembly**

All organizations whose full applications have been accepted for review by the Board prior to the event and subsequently distributed to the membership for voting purposes at the General Assembly meeting, are expected to have representatives present to share a short presentation about their proposal during the meeting. As per the Constitution, the INQAAHE Board reserves the right to make a recommendation to the General Assembly, although it may or may not do so depending upon the quality of the applications.

The presentation offered by each applicant agency to the General Assembly should be no longer than 5-8 minutes in length and must include information about the location and how INQAAHE and the local, regional and global QA community will benefit from having the next INQAAHE event held in the specified country. This presentation can be done in person or virtually.

Once all applicant organizations have presented their proposals, the voting members present at the General Assembly will vote (virtually) through a ballot process. The final selection will be based on the proposal that receives the most votes. In the case of a tie, a second round of voting will occur between the proposals which received the highest tied votes.