



Fostering Synergies Between Regional Quality Assurance Frameworks

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Presentation Outline

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Current QA Landscape

Implementation of regional QA
mechanisms

Enhancing inter-regional
cooperation

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Introduction



Growing student mobility, cross-border programmes, and labour market demands require harmonised QA frameworks.



Quality assurance (QA) is key to credibility, mobility, and competitiveness in higher education.



Regional QA frameworks aim to harmonise standards and foster trust.

Setting clear priorities and fostering cooperation are key to building synergies in QA frameworks.

QA Landscape in Africa

Overview of four African regions

- East Africa (*Inter-University Council for East Africa – IUCEA, 8 countries*)
- Southern Africa (*SADC QA Framework, 16 countries*)
- West and Central Africa (*African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education – CAMES, 19+ countries*)
- North Africa (*National QA agencies, linked via AU*)

Continental mechanisms

- ASG-QA (*African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*)
- PAQAF (*Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework*)
- HAQAA Initiative (*Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation*)

Implementation of Regional QA Mechanisms

- Harmonisation of QA policies and guidelines.
- Mutual recognition of qualifications and credit transfer systems.
- Capacity development for internal QA (*universities*) and external QA (*regulatory agencies*).
- Regional peer review through use of external evaluators from partner states
- Establishment of regional data systems for accreditation and evaluation.

Enhancing Inter-Regional Cooperation



What has worked

Peer review and benchmarking (ASG-QA, HAQAA).

Regional collaboration platforms (IUCEA, CAMES, SADC networks).

Partnerships with AU, EU, UNESCO.



What needs improvement

Resource limitations and financial sustainability.

Gaps in ICT infrastructure and QA information systems.

Uneven adoption of ASG-QA across regions.

Limited stakeholder inclusion (*students, employers*).

Opportunities for Strengthening QA Synergies

- Political and bureaucratic differences between countries.
- Variability in institutional autonomy and regulatory enforcement.
- Language and cultural diversity across regions.
- Balancing expansion of access with maintaining quality.
- Ensuring inclusivity: gender equity, marginalised groups, and access in fragile states.

The Way Forward

- Strengthening collaboration and trust among QA bodies.
- Institutionalising mutual recognition agreements.
- Developing continental databases for QA and qualifications.
- Investing in capacity development and training of QA professionals.
- Fostering of peer review.
- Securing sustainable financing models for QA.
- Linking African QA with global frameworks while protecting regional identity.



Reflection

- Synergies between QA frameworks are essential for higher education transformation.
- The ASG-QA provides a strong continental benchmark for alignment.
- Through collaboration, transparency, and innovation, QA frameworks can enable Africa to achieve globally competitive, locally relevant higher education.