



Co-funded by
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Harmonisation, Quality Assurance
and Accreditation in Africa

HAQAA3



AfCFTA and higher education conference

7-9 April, 2025



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service





Harmonisation, quality assurance and evolving policy relevance in Africa

- Higher education quality, and how to ensure and assess it, has additional importance in a changing context:
 - Digitalisation, internationalisation, post-pandemic recovery...
- Quality assurance is a piece of a bigger puzzle for African harmonisation/ intra-African cooperation..... **trade**, science capacity, employment and meeting SDGs.
- HARMONISATION, quality assurance and accreditation in African HE = larger policy scope

HAQAA structural perspective

- Three phases (2015 – 2027)....long term structural investment of the EU in African higher education and harmonisation
- Grown in stakeholder engagement: Not just as beneficiaries but also as implementers
- Interacts with and complements regional agendas (RECs) and investments of other partners (UNESCO, World Bank, DAAD....)
- Interacts with/synergises with other investments under the Youth Mobility Flagship
 - Intra-Africa Mobility Scheme
 - Erasmus+ CBHE projects
 - African Continental Qualifications Framework

HAQAA3 Objectives (2023-28)

General Objective

- Provide African countries with the **skilled workers**, managers and administrators they need to foster **sustainable development** and encourage the **trade** and investment as well as to **enhance citizenship and democratic values**

Specific Objective

QA culture and quality enhancement in HEI and capacities of QA agencies and national/regional authorities are strengthened to develop, implement and use transparency tools such as the ASG-QA and African Credit Transfer System (ACTS)

*The capacities of QA agencies and national/regional authorities are strengthened to **promote mutual recognition of qualifications and accreditation**, use of transparency tools and the setup of the PAQAA is further developed*

*The capacity of the higher education sector (including policy makers) on issues related to **evidence-based and informed policy making and regional integration** is built*

Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAA)



*****Tools and action lines for transparency between systems, trust,
a common language for quality, mobility and recognition, embedded in
Agenda 2063*****

HAQAA1/2 main outputs and take-aways

HAQAA2 Major successes

Implementation with and through stakeholders at regional level/building on regional processes

Inter-regional/inter-linguistic *African* collaboration

Training-trainers/empowering disseminators

Framing quality assurance within comparative regional integration processes

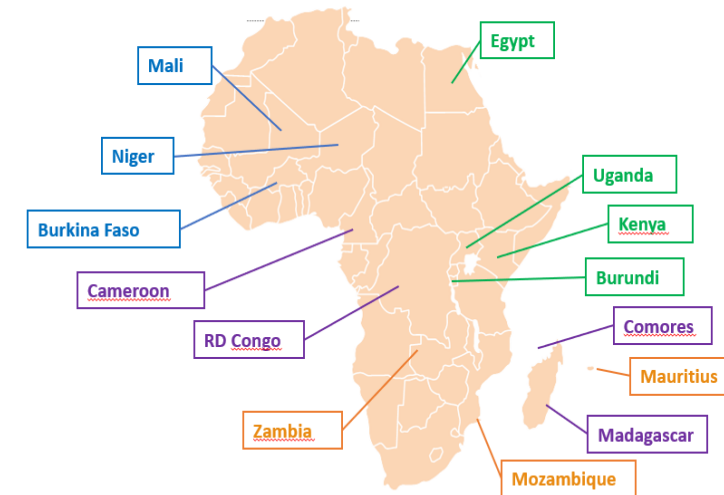
HAQAA1/2 major outputs

- The African Standards and Guidelines for QA (ASG-QA)
- The ASG-QA User's Guide
- Continental IQA training Courses and pool of 'ambassadors'
- National and regional dissemination projects
- Technical assistance to 15 African authorities and QA agencies (external evaluations of national QA authorities against the ASG-QA)
- Virtual training on comparative regional integration

HAQAA2 Dissemination projects

- Joint endeavours of HEIs and QA agencies/ministries
- Promoting the ASG-QA
- *Examples:*
- *Self-Assessment tool for Open and Distance Learning (Kenya)*
- *Creation of a Network of QA professionals at HEIs (Zambia, Mauritius)*

Selected Projects



Impact

- ✓ 95 Higher education institution Quality Assurance staff trained from 45 countries covering all regions of Africa
- ✓ 14 National ASG-QA Dissemination projects implemented by HAQAA “Ambassadors”: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comores, DRC, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Uganda and Zambia.
- ✓ 6 ‘QA agency review’ and 9 ‘consultancy visits’ (HAQAA1/2)
- ✓ 365 African HE professionals undertook the *MOOC Series on Comparative Regional Integration in Higher Education*
- ✓



HAQAA3: An overview

- 5 years: 2023-2028

- Five Work Areas

- Consolidating, enhancing, expanding

- *Continued emphasis on African continental integration

Strategic partners/ Steering Committee



CONSEIL AFRICAIN
ET MALGACHE POUR
L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR



República de Moçambique
Ministério de Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior
Conselho Nacional de Avaliação de Qualidade do Ensino Superior
CNAQ



Principles

- Continuity
- Respecting African diversity and regional dynamics
- Building African capacity to lead
- **Building understanding of regional integration**
- Multi-lingualism
- Empowering female leaders
- Africa in a global context
- Embracing digitalization
- Greening/ environmental sustainability

Situating QA in Comparative Regional Integration in higher education

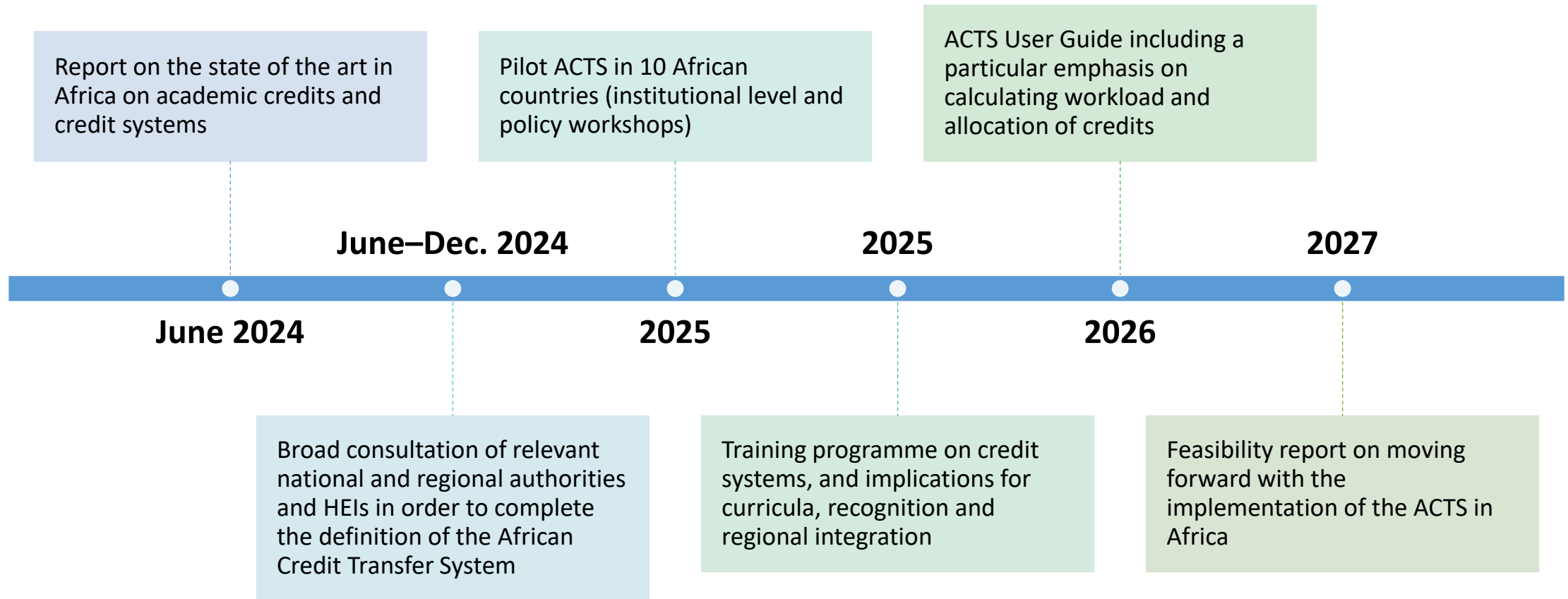
- ✓ Learning 'Materials' produced by African, European, Asian and Latin American expertise
- ✓ Promote an understanding of regional integration and the role of HE: Impacts on mobility, trade, multi-lingualism...
- ✓ MOOC series – 170 African professionals earn certificate
- ✓ Network



Work Areas

- Transversal Work Area – Policy and Capacity for Regional Integration
- Work Area: African Credit Transfer System - ACTS
- Work Area: African HE Data Capacity
- Work Area: Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency
- Work Area: IQA/EQA Training and Capacity building

Taking the African Credit Transfer System – ACTS - forward



Policy Dialogue and Regional Integration

Online course (MOOC Series) on African Continental and Regional Integration and Cooperation in HE launched in PT, FR, AR

Online events organized for the HE Integration Network

HAQAA3 Policy Briefs produced and debated on key topics

Three rounds in three languages of Specialized Private Online Courses (SPOC) organized on thematic issues

Interregional Policy dialogues organized in virtual or hybrid manner

Synergies with the European Higher Education Area*

Contribution of HE to the African Continental Free Trade Area*

HAQAA3: Take-aways/opportunity for AfCFTA

- And entry point for the EU's Youth Mobility Flagship: Important synergies with
 - Erasmus+ CBHE projects
 - Intra-Africa mobility
 - ACQFII initiative
- Capacity building opportunities for authorities
 - QA, data and credit systems/recognition
 - Hybrid Training Programme on HEMIS**
 - External review of QA agencies: Common language for accreditation
- Capacity development and training for 'people to people' collaboration
 - IQA training at university level and dissemination projects
 - Connecting networks of quality assurance professionals

HAQAA3: Take-aways/opportunity for AfCFTA

- Strong policy component
 - Making the case for higher education in development cooperation/making the case for regional integration and HE role/ HE and AfCFTA
 - Online training courses in collaboration with PAU/**Leveraging HE for AfCFTA conference**
- Pan-African articulation/strong language policy
 - English - French – Portuguese – Arabic
 - Materials, training, capacity building in 4 languages, with emphasis on Lusophone countries and networks
- Reinforcement of regional networks and associations
 - As owners and disseminators

HAQAA and AfCFTA

- *“HAQAA.....responds to the outcomes of the European Union – African Union Summit in 2022. In relation to higher education, the EU wishes to support an acceleration of Africa’s transition to an innovation-led, scientific knowledge-based economy, to the benefit of sustainable development and socio-economic transformation. Partnerships between universities and also expanded skills development opportunities are needed to improve mutual understanding and foster excellence and meet emerging needs for Africa's economic and social transformation.”*

How to get information



HAQAA WEBSITE

- The HAQAA3 website is the central hub for information and resources related to the initiative.
- The website will be available in four languages - English, French, Portuguese, and Arabic.



HAQAA SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter



HAQAA NEWSLETTER

- A regular newsletter will be distributed to stakeholders to provide updates, news, and highlights on the progress and activities of HAQAA.



HAQAA DATABASE

- On the website, anyone interested can register in the HAQAA database to receive information about the initiative.

Thank you/Merci/ Obrigada

<https://haqaa2.obsglob.org/>

<https://haqaa3.obreal.org/>