Internal Quality Assurance: A needs analysis for developing a SARUA capacity building programme: History and context for the project

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Format of presentation

- Internal Quality Assurance
- The HAQAA2 project and support for IQA
- The role of the DAAD in promoting IQA
- Towards capacity building for IQA
• QA: accountability, control, compliance, improvement

• IQA – improvement oriented; systems, policies and procedures established by institutions to ensure the quality of teaching, learning and research.

• “...be flexible, encourage innovation...seen as a tool which enables HEIs to be better connected to external stakeholders and responsive to rapid change.”

• IQA processes should:
  • Engage academics and students
  • Be ‘fit-for-purpose’ in terms of context

(Harvey L, 2018)
Harmonisation of African HE Quality Assurance and Accreditation initiatives; consortium - University of Barcelona (coordinator), the Association of African Universities (AAU), the European University Association (EUA), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

HAQAA2
- launched in 2020 and includes SARUA as a key role-player for the SADC.
- One specific objective of the project relates to strengthening the quality assurance culture in HEIs.
- HAQAA2 training programme – late 2021
Role of the DAAD in promoting IQA

- HAQAA consortium
- TrainIQA in SADC
  - Collaboration with Potsdam
  - 2 cohorts – cohort 1 started in November 2021; cohort 2 starts in February 2023
  - 5 module books developed (http://www.trainiqa.org/)
Role of DAAD in promoting IQA

• State of Play: Regional Quality Assurance in Southern Africa SADC, report prepared by Hoosen S, Chetty Y and Butcher N (2018). Funded by the DAAD
Role of DAAD in promoting IQA

• Findings in the report
  • External Quality Assurance in SADC
    • All countries have a body responsible for EQA
    • Synergies between countries - all focus mainly on registration, accreditation and audits
    • strong tradition of peer review
    • good mechanisms to ensure independence of the process
Role of DAAD in promoting IQA

- Internal Quality Assurance
  - Some HEIs may have a dedicated office or unit with QA responsibilities
  - Higher education institutions (HEIs) are at different phases in developing their QA policies and practices.
  - Challenge – limited sample size
    - “The presence of institutional level QA is less clear, as this research was based on a small sample of universities in the SADC region. The research therefore does not reflect all IQA practices.” (Butcher N, 2017)
  - The comments in the case study cannot be seen as representative of the state of play with respect to IQA in the SADC region.
• The report highlights the need to extend the research on the state of play of IQA which is inclusive of a more representative sample of HEIs covering a full spectrum of diversity of institutional types.
References

Thank You.

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