



Open Call for Quality Reviewers to participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Evaluation Mission

Quality assurance in higher education institutions is one core basis for revitalizing higher education in Africa. The Commission of the African Union (AUC) therefore spearheaded the development of the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) to establish an African system that will ensure that the performance of higher education institutions can be measured against a set of agreed criteria, and to help the institutions carry out self-evaluation exercises to support the development of institutional culture of quality. This also provides a basis for promoting harmonization of African higher education and mutual recognition of degrees and qualifications in line with the vision of the African Union.

The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) also emphasizes the importance of harmonization and quality assurance in higher education to establish compatible structures and systems which would facilitate academic mobility and foster comparability among qualifications.

Adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Education in 2007, the AQRM holds much prospect for improving the quality of higher education in Africa by fostering the development of internal quality assurance systems in institutions, providing a means for external validation of quality assessment, and a tool for strategic planning. The AQRM implementation supports the work of national, regional and continental quality assurance bodies. It also supports African higher education institutions to take ownership of their own quality assurance processes and use the quality rating mechanism as one means of supporting continuous quality improvements. A pilot self-rating exercise was conducted in 2010 in which 32 institutions participated. Based on the experience and feedback gained from the pilot survey, a revised version of the AQRM questionnaire and rating instrument has been developed.

In collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AAU), the AUC is pleased to make this open call for Quality Reviewers to participate in the AQRM Review process. Specifically, the call is for higher education quality experts. Quality reviewers are advised to read the AQRM Questionnaire and self-rating instrument that can be downloaded (in English and French version) at www.au.int and www.aau.org.

Five teams consisting of three international quality assessors (two Africans and one European) will be set up that will undertake AQRM Evaluation Missions. Each team of quality reviewers will carry out evaluation mission in 2 universities from two African countries.

The review exercise is to be undertaken between January and March 2014. The evaluation will take into account self-rating and questionnaires responses from participating universities. A honorarium of 500 euro will be paid to each quality reviewer per evaluation mission. Their travel costs and full board hotel accommodation will also be paid. The Reviewers will be expected to submit an Evaluation Report to the AUC.

Interested and qualified quality reviewers are invited to participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Evaluation Mission. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

To apply for the AQRM Evaluation Mission, please fill in the attached application form and attach a two-page CV with focus on your knowledge and experience in quality assurance and assessment, quality audit and accreditation, and send it to AQRM@africa-union.org before 16 November 2013.

Please contact AQRM@africa-union.org for more information.



Application to participate in the AQRM Evaluation Mission

- Applicants Name _____
Current Address: _____
Email: _____ Tel. _____
- Country of Citizenship: _____
- Gender: Male Female
- Field of Specialization: _____
- Qualification: Master's PhD Other _____

A two-page CV is attached with focus on my knowledge and experience in quality assurance and assessment, quality audit and accreditation Yes No

Herewith, I apply to participate in the AQRM Evaluation Mission.

Date of Application: _____

Signature: _____