



Open Call for Universities to participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Survey

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 African Universities to participate in the AQRM exercise. The revised AQRM Questionnaire and self-rating instrument can be downloaded (in English and French version) at www.au.int and www.aau.org.

Universities registered for participation will be required to use the AQRM online questionnaire and rating instrument. For selected ten Universities, the self-rating of the institution will then be validated by international external reviewers through site visits to the respective universities. The outcome of the AQRM exercise will be published and disseminated to various stakeholders of the academic community.

If you are interested in participating in the AQRM survey, kindly fill the following form and sent it back by email to AQRM@africa-union.org before 16 November 2013, to timely confirm your participation in the AQRM Survey.

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



Confirmation for Participation in AQR Questionnaire and Self-rating

- Name of University _____
- Name of the Rector / Vice Chancellor _____
- Email: _____ Tel. _____
- Contact Details of the University's focal Person for the AQR exercise

Herewith the University confirms its participation in AQR Questionnaire and Self-rating.

Date of Confirmation: _____

Signature: _____