

2025 European Quality Assurance Forum

QA in times of crises

Ensuring stability, autonomy and
international cooperation in higher education

Hosted by Corvinus University Of Budapest, Hungary
12-14 November 2025

Draft programme

The European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) provides a platform for discussion, professional development and exchange of experiences among the main stakeholders in quality assurance (QA). The Forum will be of interest to rectors and vice-rectors responsible for QA, QA officers in higher education institutions, students, QA agency staff and researchers working in higher education or the QA field.

This year's Forum, entitled '**QA in times of crises - Ensuring stability, autonomy and international cooperation in higher education**', will combine sessions about European policies and trends, research, and practical case examples related to the Forum theme and more generally about current developments in quality assurance.

Forum objectives

Quality assurance can play a crucial role in equipping the higher education sector to face rapid and dramatic shifts in political, economic and technological landscapes, alongside other societal transformations. In recent years, QA has provided fundamental guidance through uncertainty, acting as a stabilizing force and ensuring the continuity of quality education and research. To maintain and strengthen this role, QA systems must be agile, responsive and forward-thinking.

This means implementing flexible and adaptive approaches that can quickly adjust to crises and emerging challenges. It also means maintaining quality education that allows universities to ensure stability while continuing to innovate. Ultimately, the ability of QA systems to adapt to shifting landscapes will determine how effectively universities can continue to educate, innovate and contribute to society in a rapidly changing world.

EQAF 2025 will reflect on the role of QA in upholding public education as a shared societal asset and promoting academic values to ensure higher education continues to be a foundation for progress and development. It will explore new policies, innovative methodologies and tools allowing QA to promote institutional autonomy and effective governance amidst disruption and external pressures. Participants will also discuss how QA can sustain the spirit of international academic cooperation within and beyond the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), even in the face of closures or restrictions in different national contexts.

Wednesday 12 November

Special session

12.00-14.30

Meeting for student experts in quality assurance
Room 324, 3rd floor, Building E

This is a stand-alone session organised by ESU. There is a separate registration process.

Pre-forum meetings

- 15.30-16.30 Introduction to the European quality assurance framework
Main Auditorium - Room XI, 2nd floor, Building C
- A pre-forum session providing an introduction to the quality assurance framework of the European Higher Education Area.*

Forum

- 15.00-17.30 Registration
Corridor - Building E
- 17.00-18.30 Opening plenary**
Building and fostering resilience in higher education: the role of QA
Main Auditorium - Room XI, 2nd floor, Building C
- Introduction to the Forum, Anca Prisacariu, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
 - Welcome from the host
 - Lajos Szabó, Vice-Rector for academic programmes, Corvinus University of Budapest
 - János Ede Szilágyi, President, Hungarian Accreditation Committee
 - Speaker
 - Jamil Salmi, Global Tertiary Education Expert
 - Chaired by Maria Kelo, EQAF Programme Committee
- 18.30 Networking drinks
Reception hall Aula - Building E

Thursday 13 November

- 09.00-17.30 Registration
Corridor - Building E
- 09.30-10.30 Parallel session I: Perspectives on QA**
- Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.
- Promoting academic excellence through quality assurance
Room I, Ground floor, Building E
 - Nora Angelova, Executive Committee Member, ESU
 - Chaired by Gaga Gvenetadze, EQAF Programme Committee
 - Upholding autonomy and integrity in challenging times
Room II, Ground floor, Building E
 - Pádraig Walsh, former CEO, QQI
 - Aleksandar Šušnjar, Director, EQAR
 - Chaired by Daniela Craciun, EQAF Programme Committee
 - Empowering higher education institutions through strategic and foresighted QA
 - *Room IV, Ground floor, Building E*

- Dagmar Provijn, Senior Policy Advisor, NVAO Flanders
- Chaired by Eva Fernandez De Labastida, EQAF Programme Committee

10.30-11.00 Coffee break
Reception hall Aula - Building E

11.00-12.45 Papers presentations and workshops – Contributions session I

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

12.45-14.15 Lunch
Reception hall Aula - Building E

14.15-15.00 Paper and poster presentations – Contributions session II
Corridor - Building E

Participants will have a choice of attending a paper session or a poster session lasting 45 minutes.

15.00-15.15 Move to the next session

15.15-16.15 Parallel session II: Perspectives on QA

Participants will have a choice of attending one of three parallel sessions which will present various projects or initiatives in QA.

- Integrating sustainability into QA: enabling universities to tackle the environmental crisis
Room I, Ground floor, Building E
 - Geneviève Le Fort, Vice-Rector for Quality and Social Responsibility, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO)
 - Chaired by Anca Prisacariu, EQAF Programme Committee
- International academic cooperation: sustaining the spirit of the EHEA through quality assurance
Room II, Ground floor, Building E
 - Cristina Ghitulica, Director General, ARACIS
 - Susanna Karakhanyan, Former President, INQAAHE
 - Chaired by Michael Hofer, EQAF Programme Committee
- Alliances as a test-bed for the European Union
Room IV, Ground floor, Building E
 - Nadia Manzoni, PhD Candidate, Central European University
 - Giuditta Pezzotta, Vice Chancellor for Quality Assurance, University of Bergamo
 - Chaired by Sylvie Navarre, EQAF Programme Committee

16.15-16.45 Coffee break
Reception hall Aula - Building E

16.45-17.45 **Community of practice**
Free-format topical parallel sessions set up through the event app

Hall III, Ground floor, Building E

19.00 Optional forum dinner (separate fee)

Friday 14 November

09.00-13.00 Registration
Corridor - Building E

09.30-11.15 Papers presentations and workshops – Contributions session III

Participants will have a choice of attending a workshop lasting 90 minutes or two paper sessions lasting 45 minutes each, with a 15-minute break in between to allow the participants to move around.

11.15-11.45 Coffee break
Reception hall Aula - Building E

11.45-13.00 Closing plenary
From crisis to innovation: Strengthening higher education through agile QA
Main Auditorium - Room XI, 2nd floor, Building C

- Speaker
 - Maarja Beerkens | Vice-Dean - Faculty Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University
- Discussion with the chair and the audience
- General rapporteur
 - Pegi Pavletić, YUFE4 MSCA Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Rijeka
- Invitation to next year's EQAF
- Wrap-up and thanks by Anca Prisacariu, Chair, EQAF Programme Committee
- Chaired by Bryan Maguire, EQAF Programme Committee

13.00-14.30 Lunch and departure of participants
Reception hall Aula - Building E