**2022 European Quality Assurance Forum**

Shaping or sharing? QA in a value-driven EHEA

Hosted by West University of Timisoara, Romania

17-19 November 2022

**Call for contributions: Practice presentation submission form**

**Deadline 22 July 2022**

*Please note that all fields are obligatory. For a detailed description of the submission requirements and Frequently Asked Questions please consult the Call for Contributions.*

**Presenter**

**Name:** Michael Stephan

**Position:** Division Manager Special Seals (including “Excellence in Digital Education”)

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**Short biography (150 words max):**

Master´s degree in Literature and History, several years of professional experience in research, writing and editing on study and career planning (focus on engineering, economics, management, MBA, international and double degree programmes, postgraduate programmes (Staufenbiel, Germany)), most recently several years of professional experience in quality assurance services for national and multinational corporations (Top Employers Institute Amsterdam, Düsseldorf). With FIBAA since July 2021 as project manager in national and international accreditation and certification projects, division manager (including “Excellence in Digital Education”) since May 2022.

***Please note that proposals for practice presentation can be submitted by one person only. There is no reduced fee for practice presenters, so authors of this proposals are welcome to register via the regular registration form on the event website as soon as registrations open.***

**Proposal**

**Title:** Reflecting values in digital education: Shaping and sharing quality assurance principles

**The corresponding sub-topic of the proposal:** Public confidence in higher education institutions as autonomous, scientific institutions

**Proposal (maximum 500 words):**

More than two years after studying and teaching under pandemic conditions, many students and university staff have gained further insights into the advantages and pitfalls of digital education.

Digital education enables new challenges and opportunities for learning. While some students experience ‘online fatigue’ and want to go back to Campus, other students applaud the diversity of digital education and enjoy more flexibility while studying. That said, many questions still remain to be answered. How can we organise fair and secure online assessment, for instance? What is a commonly shared definition of hybrid learning (if there is at all one)? These challenges and the disruptive world of learning influence our value systems and perceptions on academic integrity, our attitude towards data security, acceptance of technology and our innovation culture. Digital education therefore needs a strategic conceptual approach and, perhaps, a different mindset.

Working on these challenges implies reflecting on the values of the organisation in terms of the following questions:

* Is digital education a long-term priority for us or just a temporal *inconvenience*?
* What do our students want three years into the pandemic? Can we offer digital education that is *as good as* the campus experience?
* What is the added value of tools and technologies and are we making the most of them?
* What are current and future threats to the classic campus degree?
* How do we navigate between “innovation” vs. “tradition”?
* How are our values reflected in the process of digital transformation (e.g. participatory/bottom-up vs. top-down approach, implementation and communication of changes)?
* Are our mission, vision and values still in line with the digital transformation and a world which is increasingly complex?

Considering the above questions, it becomes clear that many HEI will be in a stage of reassessing. Quality assurance is crucial here. Learning analytics can provide insights into the students’ learning processes, for instance. Listening to the student voice is also of utmost importance.

FIBAA has developed “Excellence in Digital Education” as an international framework for assessing the quality of digital education. Pilot projects in Germany, Austria and Switzerland have been conducted and led to further developments within the assessment catalogue. Assessment reports are publicly available and help to share best practices. The strategic positioning of the HEI is one of the certification’s standards.

FIBAA is a nationally as well as internationally experienced agency for quality assurance in HEIs. FIBAA has national recognition in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Netherlands and Flanders, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, Indonesia. FIBAA has recognition in the European Higher Education Area through the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Core operation areas of FIBAA are Europe, East Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, South East Asia.

**Discussion questions for the session:**

* Does digital education ask for different values, additional values or fewer values than onsite education?
* In which way may existing values be affected by the higher demand for digital education solutions?

*Please submit your proposal by sending this form, in Word format, by 22 July 2022 to* *eqaf@eua.eu**. The file should be named using the last names of the authors, e.g. Smith\_Jones.doc. Please do not send a hard copy or a PDF file.*