

Alfa PUENTES Project

First Regional Integration Seminar

Noviembre 6-9 de 2011

Lima, Perú

Introduction

The Alfa Puentes Project, co-funded by the ALFA program of the European Commission, aims to improve the processes of higher education in Latin America and strengthening the Euro-Latin American cooperation in higher education, by developing capacities of Latin American university partnerships, the search for convergence and mutual learning.

The modernization of university structures, Quality Assurance, qualifications frameworks, mobility, are components of the process of convergence and regional and sub-regional integration, may be facilitated by academic associations, as part of their mission to contribute to the construction of public and institutional policy in higher education.

The first seminar will focus on regional integration, reflection and analysis of quality assurance in higher education and qualification frameworks, responsibilities and prospects for reform of the systems and institutions. The second seminar (March 2012) will address issues of academic mobility and recognition of qualifications and credits. They will also inform the other sub- regions on the developments, and contribute to better understanding of concepts as well as to bring forward the discussion on regional integration processes, sub-regional and trans-regional processes between Latin America and Europe.

Objective- Quality Assurance and accreditation at regional level

The 'Regional Integration Seminar' is a trans-regional Activity of the ALFA Puentes project whose aim is to inform the three sub- regional projects of the project (Andean Community, Mercosur, Central America) on the developments on quality assurance and the discussion on qualifications frameworks in Europe and Latin America. It is expected that the seminar will offer a framework to key players in the development of higher education systems regarding quality in higher education and qualifications frameworks and their interrelation.

In particular, the university associations of the Andean region specifically would like to develop and Andean System of quality Assurance and are using this seminar to inspire their work.

The promotion of the Joint Accreditation in Latin America is already a topical issue, and effective mechanisms and strategies are being developed and implemented in the countries of Mercosur and Central America, which is a source of information as well for the Andean Community.

For example, the experience of MERCOSUR includes the following aspects:

- i. A Legal and institutional framework at international level that makes possible the joint accreditation process (ArcuSur)
- ii. Operational mechanisms such as networks of stakeholders (Universities and National Accreditation Agency - ANA), the Association of Universities Grupo Montevideo and the Network of National Accreditation Agencies (FROG).
- iii. Identification, appointment and training of peers in the region in QA

Similarly, the experience of SICA (Central American Integration System), with technical leadership CSUCA could provide information on the following aspects:

- i. Legal and institutional framework at the international level joint accreditation process viable in the space of Central America: SICA's institutions and its various organs.
- ii. The American Council on Accreditation (CCA), presentation, its mandate, functions, achievements, and international certification of National Agency of Accreditation.
- iii. Joint accreditation in specific areas of knowledge, as has been done in the case of agriculture, health sciences, and so on.

Very recent efforts have also been made in the Andean countries in transnational level accreditation with the creation of the Andean Commission of Evaluation and Accreditation, which operate within the framework of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN).

There is also clear that European experiences of cooperation (between national agencies, for example) in quality assurance and accreditation Joint pilot projects. Both experiences are useful for the interest that the university partnerships in Latin America

Objective- Qualifications frameworks and their relation to regional convergence

Meanwhile, academic associations of Mesoamerica would like to explore the development of a qualifications framework for higher education that considers the levels of training, assessment of learning outcomes, competences and profile that is comparable and compatible with national systems of higher education. Experiences have been generated in Europe indicate that the qualifications framework can foster transparency, flexibility and student mobility, as well as the systematic articulation between different types nationwide. The Regional Integration Seminar is a valuable opportunity to consolidate conceptually the issue of the nature of qualifications frameworks, its characteristics, its potential and implications for implementation at regional level. It is also an opportunity to discuss relations between qualifications frameworks, quality assurance, mobility and recognition of diplomas, the four themes are project-based Alfa,

Draft Agenda

Sunday 6 November

Arrival of participants

Opening session:

17:00 Registration

18:00 Welcome address

18:30 Introduction to Seminar

19:30 Welcome cocktail

Monday 7 November

Trends in the framework of cooperation in quality assurance in Latin America: Prospects for a general framework

9:00 Contribution: the benefits of cooperation, internationalization and its relationship to the quality of higher education

10:00 Characterization of the Latin American experience in quality assurance: types of national and regional actors

CINDA (Chile)

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Panel. Quality assurance and quality frameworks in Europe. Approaches, Actors and Trends: relationships between agencies and universities -

(Panel without introductions, agencies and associations to answer several questions about approaches and relationships in the process of QA)

- What is your role at national level?
- How it relates to the other players involved in the processes of quality assurance?
- As your institution cooperate on a transnational level material quality assurance

- What are your main achievements and challenges?
- What / would be the added value of initiatives at sub-regional? / regional?

ANECA (Spain)

CRUE (Spain)

AERES (France)

CPU (France)

ASCUN (Colombia)

CNA (Colombia)

Moderator: Tia Loukkola, EUA

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Experiences of joint evaluation and accreditation Mercosur

RANA

ArcuSur

Chair: AUGM

15:00 Experiences regional assessment and accreditation in Central

CSUCA

CCA

Chair: Central American University

16:00 Coffee

16:30 Experiences of joint evaluation and accreditation in the Andean countries

Andean Commission of Evaluation and Accreditation

RIACES (Transnational Experiences of the National Accreditation Agencies)

Chair: ASCUN (Colombia)

17:15 Experiences of co-operation in Europe and accreditation at the regional and subregional

ECA - European Consortium for Accreditation

ENQA -

NOQA (Nordic countries)

18:15 Introduction of the topic qualifications framework

20:00 Dinner

Tuesday 8

Qualification frameworks and quality assurance

9:00 Qualifications framework: Developments in the European area of higher education (aims and objectives)

Michael Gaebel, EUA

10:00 Relationship between the qualifications framework and a national system of quality assurance. Case Study in Chile

CRUCH (Chile)

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Relationship between the qualifications framework and a national system of quality assurance. Case Study in Europe

Poland (KRASP)

12:15 Plan of action to promote sub-regional qualifications framework in Central America.

13:00 Lunch

Current trends and perspectives in Latin America: Preparing sub-regional projects

14:00 Launch of the questionnaire ALFA-BRIDGES 'Transformations': Role of partners desired results

Salvador Malo, UV

15:00 Final Plenary summing up the results of both days: Messages Alfa Bridges
Announcement of Regional itegracion Shemariah degundo

EUA

OBREAL

15:30 Coffee

16:00 Working Groups on sub-regional projects of Alfa bridges

ASCUN

CSUCA

AUGM