



**Alliance between
EFQUEL and NAQAAE
for
Quality Assurance and Certification
of Higher Education E-learning
Institutions in Egypt**

Preamble

This Alliance is between EFQUEL, The European Foundation for Quality in E-learning hereinafter referred to as "EFQUEL" and the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Education, Egypt, hereinafter referred to as "NAQAAE";

WHEREAS, the NAQAAE Mission is "to ensure quality, continuous development and efficient performance of Egyptian education institutions, of their systems and of their programs, in accordance with their mission statements and declared goals, and to gain the confidence of the community in their outcomes based on internationally recognized evaluation mechanisms through an independent, neutral and transparent procedures"; and

Whereas **EFQUEL** is a not-for-profit multipoint network, open to institutions and individuals dealing with eLearning, open and distance education. It approaches quality in eLearning from different and complementary perspectives, providing full-scale services for quality of all levels of formal and non-formal education and training. Combining expertise from all different educational sectors the Foundation is a leader innovating eLearning through quality. EFQUEL is a sustainable and proactive network and provides its services to the eLearning community,

WHEREAS, the educational cooperation contemplated by this agreement is of mutual interest and benefit to NAQAAE and to EFQUEL, and will further enhance the educational objectives of NAQAAE in a manner consistent with its status as a Quality Assurance Authority and the objectives of EFQUEL in accordance with its vision, mission and objectives; and

WHEREAS, NAQAAE and EFQUEL are independent organizations and are committed to the development of quality of education programs in accordance with mission and vision of their own

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree to form a mutual alliance as follows:

SCOPE OF THE ALLIANCE

This Alliance empowers NAQAAE, with the assistance of EFQUEL to adapt and adopt the EFQUEL UNIQUE quality certification of higher education e-learning institutions to Egypt.

This alliance advances common goals and secures common interest in assuring that high quality graduates are prepared to enter the global workforce. This initiative is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on March 19th, 2009 between EFQUEL and NAQAAE

OBJECTIVES

1. The primary objective of this Alliance is to empower NAQAAE to promote the UNIQUE quality certification to e-learning higher education institutions in Egypt, and the surrounding regions through establishing a network to include Nile Basin and the Mediterranean regions.
2. The second objective of this Alliance is to work together towards establishing a joint network including the Arab University Association (AUA)
3. The third objective of this Alliance is to advance common goals and encourage common interest in promoting high quality of higher education for Egypt through capacity building activities to enable high quality graduates to enter the global workforce.
4. The fourth objective of this Alliance is to establish a joint NAQAAE and EFQUEL certification of e-learning in higher education institutions (UNIQUE) in Egypt and beyond. Programs so accredited may be recognized as *"jointly certified by the EFQUEL and the NAQAAE"* or similar agreed upon descriptors.

Implementation of the Alliance

The parties agree to undertake cooperation activities in order to adapt and adopt the UNIQUE certification model to the Egyptian context higher education context. In particular this covers the following areas:

1. The parties agree to cooperate on all activities necessary to:
 - i) adapt the UNIQUE certification model to the content of Egyptian higher education,
 - ii) cooperate on activities directed towards the adoption of the UNIQUE model to the Egyptian higher education context
 - iii) cooperate on activities directed towards the maintenance and further development of the UNIQUE model after its adoption into the higher education context in Egypt in order to ensure its purpose of innovation and quality for higher education
2. cooperate on activities leading to the enhancement of the capacity of the Egyptian higher education governance community
3. The parties agree to jointly award the UNIQUE certification whereas NAQAAE will undertake the coordination and operational implementation of the certification process and EFQUEL experts will participate in the awarding committee in order to ensure coherence between the European and the Egyptian certification model.
4. The parties agree to mutually exchange reviewers for the review process of selected higher education institutions in order to assure exchange of experiences and expertise.
5. The parties agree to undertake joint activities in order to capacitate reviewers for the certification process

Financial Implications of the Alliance

The alliance constitutes a mutually beneficial relation for both parties as it exchanges expertise and compensates cost in a way that is stipulated in Annex A "Financial implications" to this agreement.

Cooperation with other (Accreditation) Institutions

This alliance is not exclusive and does not impede each of the contracting parties to sign agreements with other evaluation and/or accreditation bodies.

Language

Both parties agree to formulate documents related to this alliance and all other written documents concerning their cooperation in English. Documents regarding specific certification processes are provided in English translations in addition to their original language, if required also in all these languages.

Termination of the Alliance

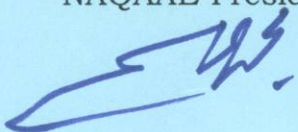
This agreement is valid except if one of the two parties has given a six month written notice in advance of its will to terminate it. In any case the contracting parties may terminate this agreement for important reasons with six months' notice before the date which corresponds to the terminating date of this cooperation agreement.

Final Regulations


1. Changes or additions to this cooperation agreement must be provided in written form and signed by both parties to be valid.
2. The respective directors of both parties are in charge of the implementation of this cooperation agreement.
3. This cooperation agreement enters into force through the signature of both parties.

EXECUTED AS OF THE DATE SET FORTH ABOVE BY THE PARTIES, OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES, AS IDENTIFIED BELOW.

Dr. Magdy Kassem
NAQAAE President



Dr. Claudio Dondi
EFQUEL President



Annex A Financial Implications

NAQAAE agrees to compensate the use of EFQUEL intellectual capital and expertise in the amount corresponding to the following financial compensation model:

1. NAQAAE will pay a forfeit licence fee for the use of UNIQUE 5000 € per year. Payment will be made yearly in the first five days of October. This payment includes the fee for the first five (5) certifications of universities in Egypt. As a grace period, the forfeit licence fee will be paid as follows:

For the starting period NAQAAE will pay the amount of 2500€ after signing the agreement, and 2500€ later in October 2010. However as soon as the joint accreditation process starts, the remaining 2500€ of the first year will be transferred and the yearly payment will be counted starting from that date.

2. NAQAAE will pay 1000 € for each higher education institution which goes through the certification process in excess to five (5). Payment will be made yearly in the first five days of October.
3. 500€/day fee for each EU/EFQUEL reviewer or expert for consultancy that will be involved in visits to NAQAAE or Egyptian Higher Education Institutions will be paid directly to the expert / reviewer upon the visit to NAQAAE.

In addition NAQAAE will compensate expert's equivalent of airfare flight from Europe to NAQAAE Cairo on Egypt Air, economy class (NAQAAE is responsible for air flight reservations). NAQAAE will also make hotel reservations and provide for accommodation while on the job. NAQAAE will also provide a local ride from airport to hotel and from hotel to NAQAAE premises and vice versa.

4. EFQUEL overhead fee of 500€ for every six expert days spent on the operation