



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

***The National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Education
(NAQAAE)***

And

The European Foundation for Quality in eLearning (EFQUEL)

Date: 19.3.2009, Cairo, Egypt

Preamble

Both EFQUEL and NAQAAE cover substantial expertise in the accreditation of higher education, school education, vocational education and adult learning institutions and programmes. Their main objective is to ensure that graduates from accredited degree programmes are excellently qualified both academically and for their professional career.

The National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education – NAQAAE, The Egyptian National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Education (**NAQAAE**) was established by a presidential decree in 2006 to assure the quality of, and accredit the Egyptian education. The NAQAAE is an authority that reports to the Prime Minister directly. It is located in Cairo and is in the process of establishing several branches to service the 27 Governorates.

NAQAAE is a novice organization. It was established in 8/11/2007 with the main goal of supporting more than 50,000 Egyptian educational institutes in fostering quality assurance measures and preparing them for accreditation. It is the accrediting body for all Egyptian educational society (higher education, pre- university, and Al-Azhar education). The organization structure of NAQAAE includes a president, 3 Vice-presidents and eleven members as well as other qualified professionals from different professional, Academic and entrepreneurial backgrounds.

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.

The collaboration of both agencies

Sealed with this contract builds upon a tradition of mutual acknowledgment and close cooperation.

On this basis and with the conviction

- That the procedures and criteria applied to accreditation processes in both regions correspond to a sufficient or acceptable level.
- That differences between the existing systems of accreditation must and can be appropriately considered in this joint endeavour,

NAQAAE and EFQUEL agree to the following memorandum of understanding concerning their future collaboration.

§ 1 – Goals of the Cooperation

The cooperation takes place with the goals of

- Furthering the building of quality assurance systems for E-Learning ;
- Working together in projects aiming at quality improvement and assurance in E-Learning
- Prospectively: carrying out joint accreditations of bi- and international degree programmes; and

These goals shall be attained through:

- Both parties will mutually examine their respective accreditation practices and standards in a constructive and critical manner, and together identify examples of best practice;
- The development and execution of a joint “code of good practice” taking into consideration internationally established guidelines;
- The establishment of a common pool of peer evaluators according to the specific situation and agreement.

§ 2 – Actions

All cooperation actions will be governed by detailed cooperation agreements which specific scope, responsibilities and costs of the commonly executed efforts.

General

1. Both parties agree to inform each other regularly about their activities in the stated areas of activity. It is envisaged that yearly personal consultations between representatives the contracting parties will be held.
2. Both parties intend to organise and carry out joint workshops on specific topics related to quality assurance in higher education.
3. The contracting parties will give the members of their pools of peer evaluators the opportunity to participate in training seminars for their evaluating activities and to observe accreditation processes.
4. The two parties join efforts to accelerate the learning and e-learning agenda in the regional cooperation efforts within the Mediterranean Union.

Specific Cooperation Activities

UNIQUE Label for Higher Education Quality

1. Setting up a Quality label for higher education institution using technology in Egypt based on the UNIQUE Quality Mark by EFQUEL.
2. Cooperate in the area of training reviewers and implementers for the UNIQUE Quality Label.

3. A licensing fee for the conditions of use and development of the quality label (UNIQUE) will be agreed in a separate agreement.

Further collaboration lines

4. Produce a "learners guide" to e-learning based on EFQUEL "Learner's charter"
5. Cooperate in the establishment of an Arab Quality Network for eLearning
6. Help NAQAAE to develop opportunities to participate in EU funded projects, either by non-funded participation (e.g. LLP programme) or by developing proposals for funded EU projects.
7. Develop further services for educational sectors other than higher education (e.g. VET, Adult Learning, etc.) based on existing EFQUEL projects in their field.

§ 3 – Cooperation with other (Accreditation) Institutions

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

§ 4 – Language

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

§ 5 – Termination of the Cooperation

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.

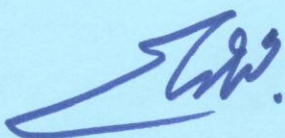
In any case the contracting parties may terminate this agreement for important reasons with six months' notice before the date which corresponds to the terminating date of this cooperation agreement.

§ 6 – Final Regulations

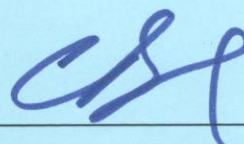
1. Changes or additions to this cooperation agreement must be provided in written form and signed by both parties to be valid.

2. The respective managing 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