



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

## Brief Report

### **"EQUAM-BI Dissemination Conference" 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain**

The EQUAM-BI project (Enhancing Quality Assurance Management and Benchmarking Strategies in Indian Universities) is a prestigious ERASMUS+ project co-ordinated by the University of Barcelona (UB) and ANERCA, Spain and NAAC. The project is intended to facilitate Indian Higher Educational Institutes to improve, enhance and sustain their Governance and Management of Quality. The project intends to address Quality Assurance Management (QAM) and benchmarking strategies on critical dimensions like Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovation and Internationalization.

**University of Barcelona (UB)** a lead co-ordinator of the EQUAM-BI Project has successfully organised the EQUAM-BI Dissemination Conference held on **7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. About 25 Delegates including representatives of all partner institutions from India and Europe attended this programme. A list of participants is enclosed as **Annexure - I**.

The main purpose of the conference is to discuss on the various issues of the project and forthcoming plan of activities to be carried out for 2020-21 as mentioned below:

- Analysis of the revised implementation plans provided by the other partner institutions (Universities) to identify the gaps and areas for improvement through benchmarking exercise.
- Development of draft benchmark toolkit with the co-ordination of National Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA).
- Modifications in benchmark toolkit to suit the Indian context.
- Emphasis on the responsibilities of each partner institutions for the successful outcome of the project until its completion.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Tuesday):**

On day one, Programme started at 9.30 am in Conference Hall of University of Barcelona (UB) with the Registration and Session 1 with Welcome address by the following members.

- **Dr. Nicolás Patrici**, *Project Leader, EQUAM-BI Project. Observatory of Globalization, University of Barcelona, Spain.*
- **Dr. Pablo Oñate**, *ANECA and University of Valencia, Spain.*
- **Dr. Jaume Fortuny**, *Project Manager, University of Barcelona, Spain.*

Introductory remarks were made by the convenor of the programme by **Dr. Nicolás Patrici**, *Project Leader. EQUAM-BI Project*. He welcomed all participants (India & Europe Partners) and briefed about the development process of the project's rationale objectives and structure. He mentioned that the purpose of the development of the benchmarking toolkit was to create a road map for the future international efforts in the context of Indian higher education system.



He also stated that analysis of the Quality Assurance Management (QAM) and Data Management (DM) impacts before implementing the plans by the Indian partner institutions and stressed the need to make a brief report on how to implement the plans before the meetings which will be held at Symbiosis International University (SIU), Pune on March 2020 and Jadavpur University, Kolkata on July 2020. He further mentioned the need for next work package activities that are to be carried out for the outcome and successful completion of the project. He mentioned that this project outcome will be useful in the perspective of future Indian and European Higher Education Quality Assurance.

Next to this, the session 2 started with the topic on ***“Policy aspects to enhance EU-INDIAN Higher Education cooperation trough Benchmarking and QA. – (WHITE PAPER REPORT AND TOOL KIT)*** by **Dr. Pablo Oñate**, *ANECA and University of Valencia, Spain*.

During his presentation, he summarised the Benchmarking Toolkit and White Paper of the project through Quality Assurance themes such as shared concept of QA, comparison of Accreditation Criteria, development of a QA Model, roles and responsibilities of QA Management Units & Foster the engagement of all stakeholders in higher education.

He highlighted the seven academic principles such as *establishment of internal Quality Assurance (QA) arrangements within the university, maintenance of internal QA arrangements within the university, monitoring and coordination of the institutional internal QA activities, establishment of internal QA arrangements for the programs offered by the university, continued monitoring of internal QA arrangements for the programs the university offers, analysis of internal QA outcomes to support institution's improvement and enhancement, monitoring (and co-ordination) of program proposals submitted by the university for external evaluation/accreditation*, which are the basic elements of the draft toolkit defined by the project for QA management of the Indian Universities. He briefed about the future steps to complete the benchmarking toolkit and concluded with final version of the toolkit which will be presented at the final EQUAM-BI conference at NAAC, Bengaluru for its dissemination followed by discussion.

Followed by this, **Dr. Wahidul Hasan**, *Senior. Communication cum Publication Officer, NAAC and co-ordinator of the project from India* has made the presentation on **“Policy Aspects of the Indian QA System & NAAC - Strategics for Implementation Plans”**.



During his presentation, he briefed about the current scenario of the Indian higher education system and overall assessment and accreditation process of NAAC. He emphasized the introduction of benchmarking concept of Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) which is ICT enabled objective, transparent, scalable, robust, document based assessment method, mainly based on the data management and documentation.

He highlighted the revised methodology by executing data based benchmark driven accreditation and key features of RAF such as QIF, Introduction of Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics, Quality Benchmarks, Third Party Validation, Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS), NAAC-Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Alumni Engagement, etc., this kind of benchmarking activities & examples may impact in preparing and finalizing the benchmarking toolkit in a right direction.

He also spoke on the importance of impact of Quality Assurance Management (QAM) and Data Management (DM) for the implementation plans by the Indian partner institutions for future project activities and he ensured that the project outcome will be useful for long time sustainability of work done through institutional structure, both at national and international level. He mentioned the analysis work done by NAAC on the implementation plans received from Indian Partner Institutions and described the NAAC strategics for implementing plans with key activities to be planned based on the institutional needs followed by discussion.



During the interaction session **Dr. Nicolas Patrici** has appreciated all the partner institutions for promoting this benchmarking approach in the global context for improvement of quality culture and performance in higher education quality assurance scenario.

The first day session ended with Partners Interaction Meeting on the topic of **“Benchmarking Toolkit: Academic Principles on Internal Quality Assurance Management”** led by **Carl-Gustav Jansson**, *KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden*, followed by **Round table discussion on good practices for internal QA management: the viewpoint of the Partner Institutions**.

He recommends that giving inputs or feedback on the topic to all partner institutions, so that the implementation exercise and pilot of toolkit will be developed in the first quarter of 2020.

All the partner institutions are appreciated the work done by ANECA on draft document on Academic Principles, which helps in preparing the benchmarking toolkit with the international standards.

During the discussion, **Dr. Pablo Onate** clarified that this draft academic principles will be useful to the Indian partner institutions for promoting and fostering the future quality assurance system and also assured that this principles are not mandatory, which is self explanatory and optional for implementing plans.

**Dr. Wahidul Hasan** has clarified that preparation of benchmark toolkit for Indian Higher Education Institution will be a long term process, which may take about 3-4 months time to finalize the benchmark toolkit in Indian perspective and **Mr. Umesh Kumar. R**, *Project Assistant, NAAC* has opined the draft timeline of benchmark toolkit preparation in the Indian context, which will be undertaken by NAAC shortly.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 (Wednesday)**

On day two, the programme started with the session 4 on topic – ***“The implementation of a new approach towards QA and Benchmarking in India and Europe”*** by **Rafael Llavori**, *Head of Unit for Institutional and International Relations, ANECA*, followed by discussion.

He briefed about the outline of the Benchmark Toolkit and seven academic principles. He mentioned that Benchmark Toolkit will be playing the key role for the institutions to improve the quality culture in higher education scenario at International level. He concluded that ANECA and NAAC will be act as International coordinators from India and Europe to enhance the quality performance of each partner institutions through implementation of Benchmark Toolkit.

Next to this, the session 5 started with the topic on ***“Presentation of the revised implementation plans by all Indian Partner Institutions”*** with following members.

- **Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Kamat**, *Professor and Head, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra*
- **Dr.S. Vijaykumar Bharathi**, *Professor, Symbiosis Center for Information Technology, Symbiosis International University, Pune, Maharashtra*
- **Dr. H.L. Shashirekha**, *Professor, Department of Computer Science, Mangalore University, Karnataka*
- **Prof. Amitava Dutta**, *Professor, Power Engineering Department and IQAC Coordinator, Jadavpur University, West Bengal*
- **Ms. Chaitanya Mohan**, *Business & Market Support, Asian Institute of Design (AID), Bengaluru, Karnataka*
- **Ms. Rashmi Uday Kumar**, *Assistant Registrar (Communication & PR) Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Tamil Nadu*

The above members made their presentation on revised implementation plans and activities undertaken by their Institutions. They briefed about their institutional core values, objectives, vision-mission, Academic Quality Assurance, Academic Policies and Procedures, institutional criteria wise analysis (Curriculum aspects, Research, Teaching-Learning, Innovation, Student Progression, Governance, Internalisation and Best Practices) quality assurance system and quality plan for the implementation of benchmark toolkit.

Followed by this, session 6 was started with discussion on ***the initial and midterm evaluation of the implementation process to be planned in Pune and Kolkata meeting*** by **Dr. Nicolás Patrici**, *Project Leader. EQUAM-BI Project*. He suggested that each Indian partner-institution should conduct a three-fold practical analysis, to present & discuss their results in Pune meeting in March, 2020 and The Toolkit implementation in each Indian partner university could be further piloted and completed through the pilots of EQUAM-BI project, to be submitted and discussed in the meeting at Kolkata in July 2020.

Followed by this, the final session on “**Financial Aspects and General Management of the Project, Budgetary Issues**” made by **Jaume Fortuny**, *Project Manager, University of Barcelona* & **Agustina Calabrese**, *Financial Manager, University of Barcelona* with discussions and procedures regarding how to proceed with supporting documentation to obtain the grant instalments on each stages for the project partners.

During the session, **Agustina Calabrese** clarified that release of 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment grants is being under process, once it is received from European Commission, then it will be distributed to all partners by February-March 2020.

The EQUAM-BI two days Dissemination programme ended with Closing Remarks by **Dr. Nicolás Patrici**, *Project Leader. EQUAM-BI Project*.

**We are thankful to Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC for providing this opportunity of sharing and learning.**

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**Prof. S. C. Sharma**  
Director, NAAC

**Dr. Wahidul Hasan**  
Sr. CPO, NAAC  
Co-ordinator of the Project

***Group Photo: EQUAM-BI Dissemination Conference***



**Representatives of all partner institutions (India & Europe) during inaugural session at EQUAM-BI Dissemination Conference organised by University of Barcelona (UB) at UB Campus, Barcelona, Spain.**

**List of Participants from European Universities/Institutions:**

<b>SL. NO.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation of the Participants</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Dr. Nicolas Patrici</b> Project Co-ordinator The University of Barcelona, Barcelona, <b>Spain</b> (Convener of the Programme)
<b>2.</b>	<b>Jaume Fortuny</b> Project Manager The University of Barcelona, Barcelona, <b>Spain</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Agustina Calabrese</b> Financial Manager The University of Barcelona, Barcelona, <b>Spain</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Nicole Font</b> Communication Manager The University of Barcelona, Barcelona, <b>Spain</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Dr. Rafael Llavori</b> National Agency For Quality Assurance And Accreditation of Spain – ANECA, Madrid, <b>Spain</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Dr. Pablo Oñate,</b> ANECA and University of Valencia, Spain.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Carl-Gustav Jansson</b> KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Kungliga Tekniska Hoegskolan- Kth), Stockholm, <b>Sweden</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Shirin Zakeri</b> Researcher, (Università Degli Studi Di Roma “La Sapienza”- UNIROMA1), Roma RM, <b>Italy</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Elodie ERNOULT</b> Project Manager The University of Montpellier (Université De Montpellier- UM), Montpellier, <b>France</b>

### List of Participants from Indian Universities/Institutions

1.	<b>Dr. Wahidul Hasan</b> Sr. Communication cum Publication Officer National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, Karnataka
2.	<b>Mr. Umesh Kumar. R</b> Project Assistant National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, Karnataka
3.	<b>Dr.S. Vijaykumar Bharathi</b> Professor Symbiosis Center for Information Technology Symbiosis International University, <b>Pune</b> , Maharashtra
4.	<b>Dr. G. Hemantha Kumar</b> Vice Chancellor Former Professor, Dept. of Studies in Computer Science, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, <b>Mysore</b> , Karnataka
5.	<b>Dr. Devanand B. Shinde</b> Vice Chancellor Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
6.	<b>Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Kamat</b> Professor and Head, Department of Electronics, Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Shivaji University, <b>Kolhapur</b> , Maharashtra
7.	<b>Prof. Amitava Dutta</b> Professor Power Engineering Department and IQAC Coordinator Jadavpur University, <b>Kolkata</b> , West Bengal
8.	<b>Prof. Ajay Kumar Ghosh</b> Professor, Dept. of Physics Jadavpur University, <b>Kolkata</b> , West Bengal
9.	<b>Dr. H.L. Shashirekha</b> Professor Department of Computer Science, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri, <b>Mangalore</b> , Karnataka



<b>10.</b>	<b>Dr. Veerabhadrapa</b> Associate Professor Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri, <b>Mangalore, Karnataka</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Ms. Rashmi Uday Kumar</b> Assistant Registrar (Communication & PR) Indian Institute of Technology Madras, <b>Chennai</b> , Tamil Nadu
<b>12.</b>	<b>Mr. Hanif Mohammed Marakkarakayil</b> CEO, AID –Asian Institute of Design, Edulink Private Limited - EDULINK, <b>Bangalore</b> , Karnataka
<b>13.</b>	<b>Mr. Chandrasekhar R</b> Principal, AID –Asian Institute of Design, Edulink Private Limited - EDULINK, <b>Bangalore</b> , Karnataka
<b>14.</b>	<b>Ms. Chaitanya Mohan</b> Business & Marketing Support AID –Asian Institute of Design, Edulink Private Limited - EDULINK, <b>Bangalore</b> , Karnataka

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