

***10 YEARS OF AUTUMN CONFERENCES ON QUALITY
IN UNIVERSITIES: Review and recent developments***

Bonn, 9-10 November 2009

**Regional networks – improved cooperation
through a shared culture?
RIACES**

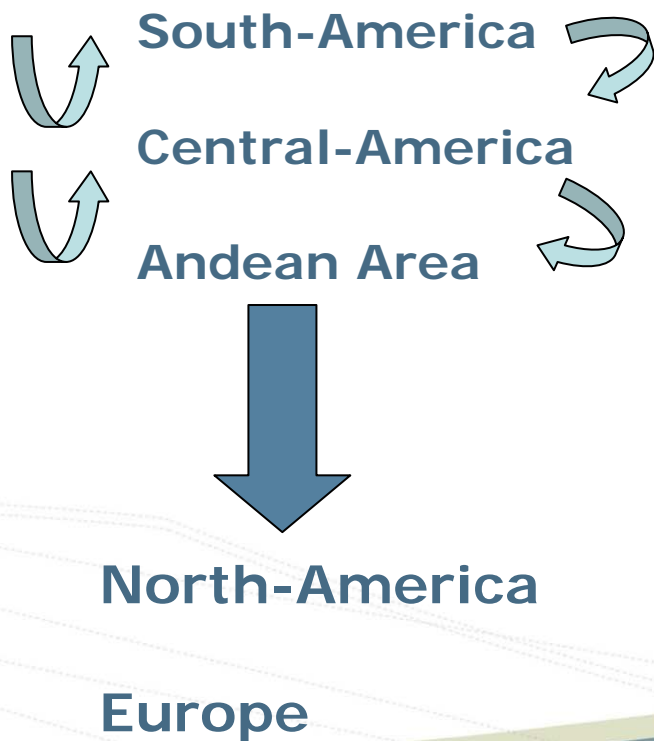
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Contents

- The setting and the scenarios
- The QA network RIACES
- Perspectives for QA enhancement for agencies:
CINTAS project

Different academic and professional flows intra- and inter-subregions:



Need for strengthening formation and diplomas recognition among countries.



**POLITICAL WILL
TOWARDS QA AND
ACCREDITATION IN
HE**

Different multilateral initiatives to shape a political integrity at the regional and trans-regional level:

Ibero-American Summits. Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos (OEI).



- 17th Ibero-American Summit, Chile 2007: **Student Mobility Programme “Pablo Neruda”**.
- “Setting up criteria for harmonising the evaluation of Ibero-American Doctorates”. September 2009, Buenos Aires. Steering Group: Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Argentina

The building of the Ibero-American Knowledge Area. Principles:

- Gradual implementation
- Flexibility
- Priorisation of measures
- Articulation of policies
- **Quality assurance**
- Co-responsibility
- Solidarity
- Mutual benefit

Various approaches to face QA provision in HE:



-European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Higher Education. ANECA, Spain – 2007. Co-ordination ENQA



- INQAAHE Guidelines of Good Practice in Quality Assurance: CNAP, Chile - 2006. Co-ordination: INQAAHE



OECD-UNESCO Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education: CONEAU, Argentina – 2007. Co-ordination: IESALC-UNESCO

REGIONAL SCHEMES

Stages for the definition of QA mechanisms and practices involved in evaluation and accreditation processes*

Networks of agencies



RIACES – Ibero-American Network of Accreditation Agencies

Harmonisation and convergence of evaluation standards



MEXA 2002- (Experimental Programme Accreditation Mechanism for Bachelor Degrees Recognition within the MERCOSUR countries plus Bolivia and Chile)
RANA – 2007 (National Accreditation Agencies Network)

Requirements for the harmonisation and convergence of expert training

International review of agencies



Central-America: CCA Accreditation Agency accrediting QA-agencies at the sub-regional level

* Source: Ernesto Villanueva, CONEAU (2007)



**RED IBEROAMERICANA PARA LA ACREDITACIÓN
DE LA CALIDAD DE LA EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR**

Features:

- ✓ Association of QA and accreditation agencies for HE
- ✓ Independent of governments

Goals:

- ✓ Promoting Ibero-American co-operation and exchange of good-practices on QA and accreditation of HE
- ✓ Promoting QA enhancement in the countries

Strategic trends of the network:

- ✓ Strengthening the role played by agencies within the network
- ✓ Developing QA mechanisms at the regional level
- ✓ Establishing a regional information office
- ✓ Developing the technical profile of the staff through
- ✓ Developing the technical training for evaluators

RIACES membership

■ Full Members: 23

- sub-regional QA evaluation and accreditation bodies officially recognized.
- The governmental offices for QA policies in HE.

■ Associate Members: 5

- international bodies for HE acting in the Iberoamerican area





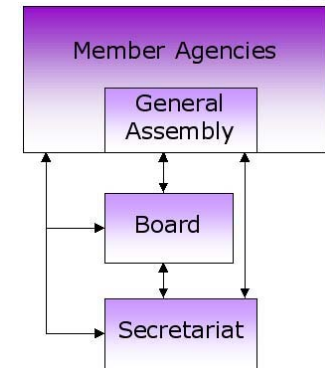
Members of RIACES

- 18 countries**
- 6 Central
- 5 Andean
- 5 South
- México
- Spain

*Source: RIACES (www.riaces.net)

ORGANIZATION

- **General Assembly** : is the decision making body. It is constituted by all the full and associate members.
- **Board**: is the management body, its role is to guarantee an efficient management. It is constituted by 7 full members elected by the GA, one of them is the President and another one the Secretary
- **Technical Coordination office** among other tasks, is the administrative and budget management responsible. The budget is coming from its members and from projects or other activities



■ PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- Regional Experimental Accreditation of Bachelor Programs
 - Medicine and Agronomy
- In development: Masters and Doctorate

■ MEMBER AGENCIES

- Formation
 - Courses for Technical Staff
 - Exchange of Technical Staff among agencies
- Support to external assessment
 - Self evaluation manual
- Support to emerging agencies
 - Internal QA of Agencies. CINTAS project

MEXA- (Experimental Programme Accreditation Mechanism for the Recognition of Bachelor Degrees within the MERCOSUR countries plus Bolivia and Chile)

RANA – 2007 (National Accreditation Agencies Network)



- Agencies advanced in the convergence of evaluation standards through an effort towards harmonization of the evaluation processes in the area.
- Accreditation is based upon a set of quality standards shared by the countries involved.
- Accreditation is program-oriented and focuses on graduate mobility.
- This project has been possible because a three-fold legitimating process which involves: governments, agencies and disciplines.

The manual for self-evaluation of agencies

- ✓ Basic elements for designing and conducting **self-evaluation** procedures to the evaluation and accreditation **agencies**
- ✓ The reference framework –the **evaluation standards**– for the development of **self-evaluation** procedures
- ✓ **Minimum structure** to elaborate a **self-evaluation** report, as well as support information for the process
- ✓ Basic **orientations** towards the **external review**
 - ✓ Procedure,
 - ✓ Standards
 - ✓ the international panel and
 - ✓ Final report



PROYECTO:
MANUAL PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN
DE AGENCIAS DE EVALUACIÓN Y ACREDITACIÓN
DE LA CALIDAD DE LA EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR

Documento de trabajo
CINCA
Bogotá, 2007
Elaborado por el Departamento de Operaciones y Coordinación de la ANECA

BORRADOR PARA DISCUSIÓN



The **CINTAS** project was designed by ANECA for RIACES. It focuses on the development of Internal Quality Assurance Systems of the agencies.



Objectives

- ✓ Supporting the QA / accreditation agencies in developing their own procedures of **internal quality assurance systems**.
- ✓ Building a shared **reference framework** for quality assurance to be used within the RIACES context.



MILESTONES CINTAS project

of the



1. Formation for the design and development of the Internal Quality Assurance Systems (IQAS) at agencies



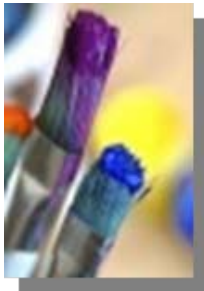
2. Support and Follow up for the design and development of the IQAS by agencies

Rationale of the CINTAS project

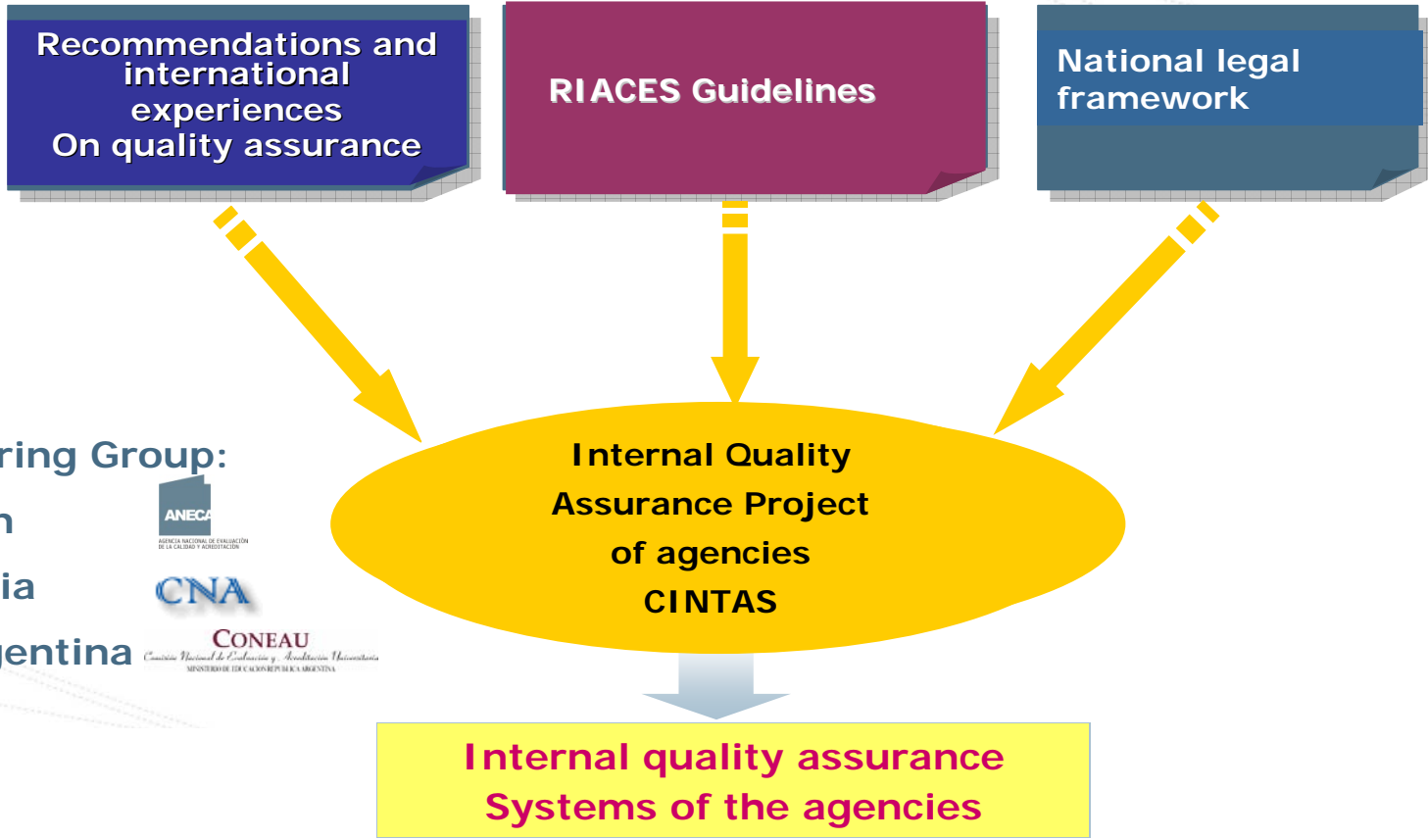


- ✓ Focused towards stakeholders:
 - ✓ Government
 - ✓ Universities
 - ✓ Students
 - ✓ Professionals
 - ✓ Society

- ✓ Standards and guidelines for internal Quality Assurance within agencies



CINTAS Project



CINTAS Steering Group:
ANECA, Spain
CNA, Colombia
CONEAU, Argentina
JAN, Cuba



Steps for the IQAS design



1. Agency analyses on the relationship with their stakeholders and its legal frame
2. Compromise of the key persons and planning the support structure
3. Diagnosis: identification of the already existing elements and of those needed
4. Definition, design and documentation



Internal Quality Assurance Criteria



0. How the agency fulfils the quality requirements to carry out evaluation, certification or accreditation at HE level.

The agency is formally recognised by competent authorities as a body with responsibilities for external evaluation, certification and accreditation activities at HE level.

1. How the Agency defines its mission, its policy and objectives

The Agency is able to promote externally and to consolidate internally a quality culture based on a public and accessible mission, policy and quality objectives.

2. How the agencies develops its relationship with HEI and other stakeholders.

The Agency recognize HEI as the main responsible for the quality of their provisions and its assurance and respect their institutional autonomy.

Internal Quality Assurance Criteria



3. How the agency assures the external evaluation processes

Agencies must be provided with public criteria, mechanisms and procedures for evaluation and accreditation, to ensure that these processes are carried out with the duly safeguards

4. How the agency take its decisions related to evaluation and accreditation processes

Agencies must be provided with procedures to be able to take independent decisions based on the information and the evidences collected and on pre-defined criteria

5. How the agency assures and enhances the quality of its personnel.

Agencies must have mechanisms to ensure that the recruitment, management and training of its personnel are carried out with appropriate safeguards in order for them to carry out their corresponding functions.

Internal Quality Assurance Criteria



6. How the agency assures its material and financial resources

Agencies must be provided with mechanisms, so it can design, manage and improve its services, and material resources in order to develop appropriately its assessment and accreditation activities.

7. How the agency analyses and takes into consideration the outcomes of its assessment activities.

Agencies must be provided with procedures to ensure that outcomes are measured, analysed and used for decision-making and to enhance the quality of its assessments.

8. How the agency publishes information on its evaluation activities and has in place accountability procedures to the society .

Agencies must be equipped with mechanisms to ensure that updated information on its evaluation activities and has in place procedures for its own accountability.

RIACES General Assembly (Montevideo, 2007) approves implementing the project and entrusts ANECA the design of the project

RIACES Board of Directors approves the proposal of the project

ANECA designs the project and the *Manual for the Internal Quality Assurance System*

RIACES' Board of Directors approves CINTAS project (Madrid June 2007)

CINTAS Commission is set up and defines the stages of the project (Bogotá Nov. 2007)

**The project is submitted/
Participation commitment of the agencies**

Training Seminars- workshops

The participating agencies prepare the Internal Quality Assurance Manual (IQAS)

Support and follow-up actions the implementation of IQAS

Flow-chart of the Project

QA enhancement for agencies: the CINTAS project

Results of the CINTAS programme after two years



2008



Consejo Centroamericano de Acreditación, CCA

- ✓ Stage of members of the CCA in Madrid for capacity building of emerging agencies: El Salvador and Nicaragua
- ✓ 1st Workshop on CINTAS and capacity building with staff and board members of CCA (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panamá, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala). San José, April 2008



RIACES

- ✓ 1st Workshop in capacity building of staff and board members of RIACES agencies: Costa Rica, Cuba, Uruguay, Colombia and Bolivia. Madrid, November 2008

2009



Consejo Centroamericano de Acreditación, CCA

- ✓ 2nd Workshop on CINTAS and capacity building of staff and board members. San José, November 2009

Thank you

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