



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

Agency for Higher Education of Republic of Srpska (AHERS)

and the

Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya (AQU Catalunya)

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the **Agency for Higher Education of Republic of Srpska** (hereinafter referred to as 'AHERS'), located at Kralja Petra I Karađorđevića 78, 78000 Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

and the

Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya (hereinafter referred to as "AQU Catalunya"), located at Carrer d'Enric Granados, 33, 08007 Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.

Whereas

The Agency for Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska was established by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Srpska No.: 04 / 1-012-2-273/11 from February 24, 2011 under the name of the Public Institution Higher Education Accreditation Agency of the Republic of Srpska. By the Law on Quality Assurance in Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska, the Public Institution Higher Education Accreditation Agency of the Republic of Srpska was transformed into the Agency for Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska as its legal successor. The mission of the AHERS is continuous build-up and improvement of quality assurance in Republic Srpska higher education

system through the implementation of European standards and best practices in the area of quality assurance, as well as establishing quality culture with all relevant stakeholders. AHERS is a full member of Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA), International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and affiliate member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, AQU Catalunya is regulated by the Act 15/2015 on the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (Published in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia, DOGC, dated 23 July 2015). AQU Catalunya, is the main instrument for the promotion and assurance of quality in the Catalan higher education system. AQU Catalunya is entrusted with the assessment, accreditation and certification of quality in the higher education institutions in Catalonia. AQU Catalunya is full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and has been one of the first three agencies to be included in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). AQU is hosting (2013 to 2021) the INQAAHE Secretariat (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education). Also is member of the Spanish Network of Spanish Quality Assurance Agencies (REACU). AQU Catalunya was the first European quality agency to be ISO certified.

AHERS and AQU Catalunya

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the quality assurance in Higher Education, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

AHERS and AQU Catalunya agree through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards enhancing external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improving the quality of higher education in Republika Srpska and Catalunya, and the internationalization of both systems. This MOU is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party. However, AHERS and AQU Catalunya agree to work together to implement this MOU in good faith.

The MOU covers the following areas:

(a) Mutual understanding

Work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to assuring quality in higher education, the respective systems in place for quality assurance and enhancement in higher education, and the critical matters relating to quality and standards in higher education in Republika Srpska and Catalunya.

(b) Information exchange and transparency

Exchange information and offer professional advice about each other's activities and processes, higher education providers operating in each jurisdiction, and about developments in the higher education systems of Republika Srpska and Catalunya, having regard for the confidentiality of the information and relevant Data Protection legislation.

(c) Staff development

Where appropriate and possible, support the development of staff from the two agencies through activities such as staff exchange, observing each other's quality assurance review and provision of training.

(d) Use of each other's expertise

Where appropriate and possible, taking account of operational constraints, draw on each other's expertise and auditors, accreditors or other specialists to strengthen the international dimension of institutional reviews and/or accreditations, including reviews of cross-border education.

(e) Recognition

Where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of higher education within one party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, have due regard to the relevant decisions and judgements of the other party.

(f) Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to mutually agreed projects and activities for the benefits of both parties, including the quality assurance of transnational education, the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in Republika Srpska and Catalunya, supporting student mobility, and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

(g) Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, each agency will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the MOU. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Duration of Memorandum and Alteration

The MOU will take effect for a period of five years (date set according to signing date below) and shall continue for five years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party, and may be altered at any time with the consent of both parties. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.


Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Director of AHERS and the President of AQU Catalunya will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agency's staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Signature as follows:



Dr. Biljana Vojvodic,
Director, AHERS



Prof. Dr. Josep Joan Moreso Mateos,
President, AQU Catalunya

Date: _____

Date: 5th July, 2024