



## **EXTENDED DEADLINE**

### **Open Call for Universities to participate in the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Survey**

Quality assurance in higher education institutions is one core basis for revitalizing higher education in Africa. The Commission of the African Union therefore spearheaded the development of the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) to establish an African system that will ensure that the performance of higher education institutions can be measured against a set of agreed criteria, and to help the institutions carry out self-evaluation exercises to support the development of institutional culture of quality. This also provides a basis for promoting harmonization of African higher education and mutual recognition of degrees and qualifications in line with the vision of the African Union.

The importance of harmonization and quality assurance in higher education is recognized as a key area of collaboration under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, to establish compatible structures and systems which would facilitate academic mobility and foster comparability among qualifications.

Adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union in 2007, the AQRM holds much prospect for improving the quality of higher education in Africa by fostering the development of internal quality assurance systems in institutions, providing a means for external validation of quality assessment, and a tool for strategic planning. The AQRM implementation supports the work of national, regional and continental quality assurance bodies. It also supports African higher education institutions to take ownership of their own quality assurance processes and use the quality rating mechanism as one means of supporting continuous quality improvements. A pilot self-rating exercise was conducted in 2010 in which 32 institutions participated. Based on the experience and feedback gained from the pilot survey, a revised version of the AQRM questionnaire and rating instrument has been developed.

In collaboration with the Association of African Universities, the AU Commission is pleased to make an open call to African Universities to participate in the AQRM exercise. The revised AQRM Questionnaire and self-rating instrument can be downloaded (in English or French version) at [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

An On-line Tool for AQRM survey and self-rating instrument is also accessible at

<http://africahrst.org>

The On-line Tool is also available in both English and French versions. The tool enables institutions to submit the questionnaire and their self-rating electronically so as to allow efficient processing of the data.

**For selected Universities, the self-rating of the institutions will be validated by international external reviewers through site visits to the respective universities. The outcome of the AQRM exercise will be published and disseminated to various stakeholders of the academic community.**

Participating universities are advised to urgently start the AQRM survey so that it will be finalized in time for the evaluation by external reviewers. Completed questionnaire and self-rating are to be submitted **before 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**.

In order to confirm participation, Universities who wish to participate in the AQRM survey are kindly requested to fill the form below, and urgently send it back as scanned PDF copy by email to the following address.

[aqrm@africa-union.org](mailto:aqrm@africa-union.org)

Please contact [aqrm@africa-union.org](mailto:aqrm@africa-union.org) for more information.



## Confirmation of Participation in AQRM Questionnaire and Self-Rating

- Name of University \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of the Rector / Vice Chancellor \_\_\_\_\_
- Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Details of the University's focal Person for the AQRM exercise  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Herewith the University confirms its participation in AQRM Questionnaire and Self-rating.

Date of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_