

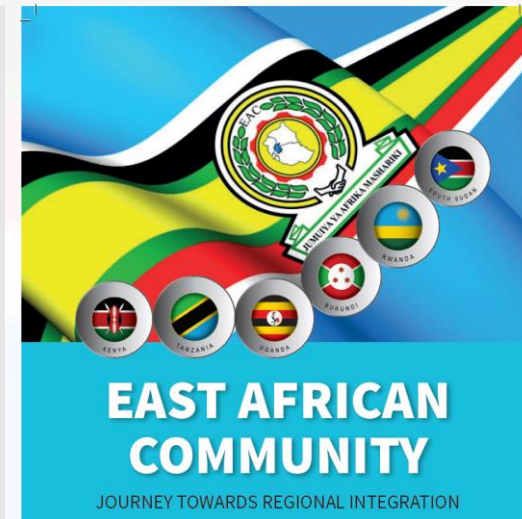


REGIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORKS IN EAST AFRICA



Presentation of IUCEA at the HAQAA3 IQA Training Workshop

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Presentation Outline



1. Background to the QA System in East Africa
2. Legal Framework for Establishing a Regional QA System
3. Institutional Framework for QA in EAC (QA Agencies)
4. EAC as a Common Higher Education Area
5. Regional QA Policies, Tools, Frameworks
6. Strategies for establishing harmonised regional QA system



EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY





Background to the Regional QA System in East Africa



- ❖ The establishment of a regional quality assurance system in East Africa has been a gradual process.
- ❖ The hallmark of this process has been the enactment of **legal instruments**, adoption of **relevant policies**, establishment of **QA institutions/agencies**, **capacity building** and **QA Networking**.
- ❖ In 2006, IUCEA in conjunction with its partners agreed to jointly undertake an initiative in enhancing HE quality assurance in East Africa.
- ❖ Initially, the QA initiative involved a **consensus building process** through engaging key stakeholders in **consultative dialogue events**.
- ❖ Capacity building was critical in establishing this QA system



The Legal Framework on QA and Harmonization of Higher Education in East Africa



Key Legal Instruments for Harmonisation of HE Quality Assurance & Qualifications in EAC:

- a) The East African Community Treaty - Art. 102 (Partner States agreed to harmonise education and promote mobility).
- b) The Common Market Protocol - Art. 11 (Free movement of people, labour and services; requiring mutual recognition of qualifications and cross-border education)
- c) The IUCEA Act, 2009 - Art. 4 & Art. 6.



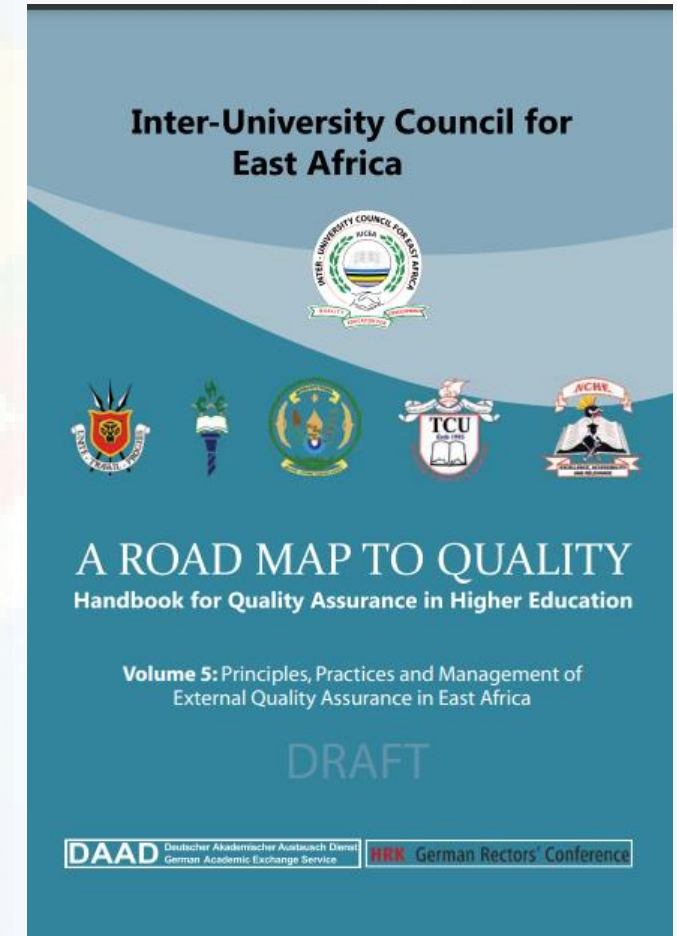
Harmonization of higher education entails the establishment of regional systems that would facilitate comparability of higher education systems in the East African Community Partner States.



Institutional Framework: The QAA in EAC



- The EAC Partner States have established QAA
- Seven of these QAA are now functional:
 1. National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE) – Burundi
 2. Commission for University Education (CUE) – Kenya - 1985
 3. Higher Education Council (HEC) – Rwanda
 4. Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) – Tanzania
 5. National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) – Uganda – UOTIA 2001
 6. National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) – South Sudan, established by the Higher Education Act of 2012.
 7. The National Commission for Higher and University Education, DRC
- A detailed analysis of 5 QAAs in EAC can be found in the IUCEA QA Handbook Vol.5





IUCEA as a Regional QAA



- ❖ IUCEA is an agency of the EAC
- ❖ The broad mandate of IUCEA (Act of 2009) is to, among other things:
 1. Advise Partner States of the EAC on matters of higher education
 2. Coordinate higher education and research in EAC
 3. Promote Quality of education by **establishing quality assurance system** in the EAC
 4. Facilitate **networking** among HEIs in the region
- ❖ Over the years, IUCEA and its national and international partners have progressively built a regional **QA System** and indeed a **Common Higher Education Area** anchored on **QA policy frameworks, Qualifications Framework, common programme standards and QA Networking**



East African Community as a Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA)



- ❑ A Declaration was made by the 18th Summit of the EAC Heads of State on May 20, 2017 in Dar Es-Salaam, Tanzania
- ❑ The objective was to transform East Africa into a Common Higher Education Area characterized by **comparable, compatible, coherent and harmonized systems** of Higher Education thereby facilitating free **mobility of student, staff, programmes, and institutions, and mutual recognition of qualifications.**



Building Blocks for the EACHEA



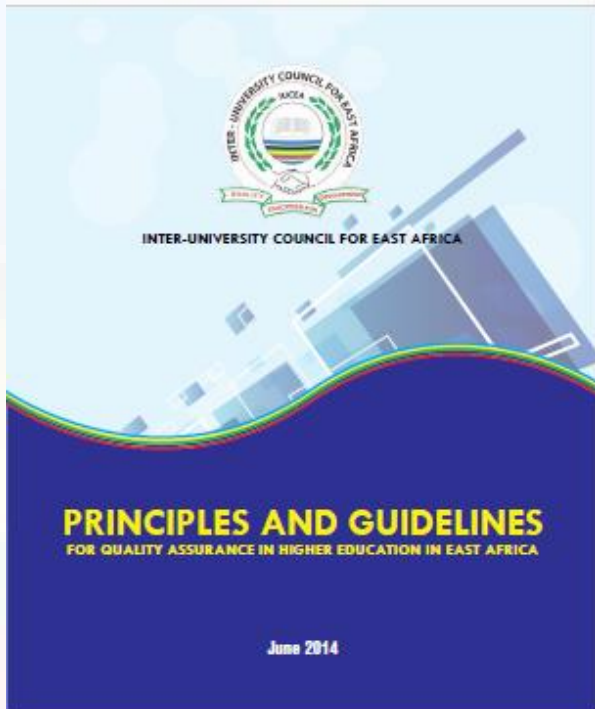
- 1. Regional Quality Assurance System, incorporating:**
 - ❖ QA policy framework
 - ❖ Standards, guidelines and procedures
 - ❖ Programme benchmarks
- 2. East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, EAQFHE**
 - ❖ Platform for anchoring national qualifications frameworks for their harmonization
 - ❖ Provides for many policies and guidelines (including **QIP, CAT, RPL**)
- 3. Regional Accreditation System (**Quality-Based**) for Academic Programmes**
- 4. Students and Staff Mobility Programme** – facilitating HE mobility in the region.
- 5. East African Quality Assurance Network for Higher Education, EAQAN**
– **An expanding community of QA practitioners**



1. Quality Assurance Policy Frameworks and Tools

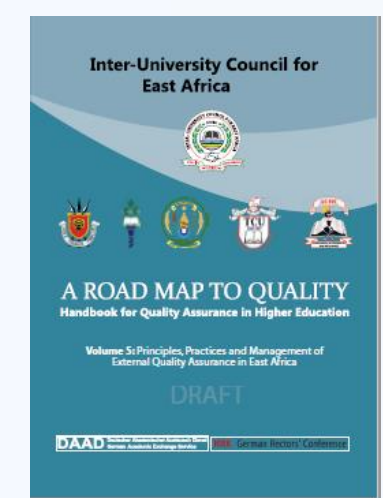
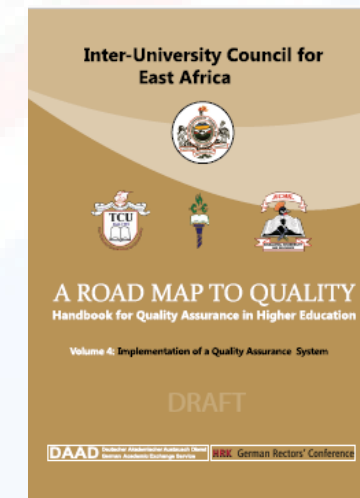
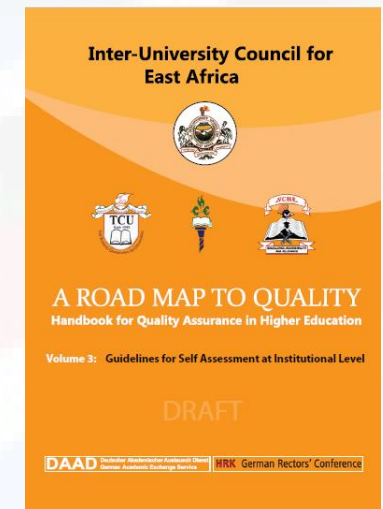
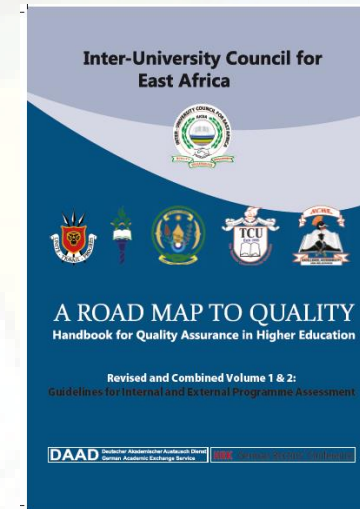


a) Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in East Africa



A common frame of reference guiding higher education institutions and national commissions and councils for higher or university education in developing and practicing a common quality assurance culture,

b) Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education “Roadmap to Quality”, in 5 Volumes





Other Relevant QA Policy Instruments

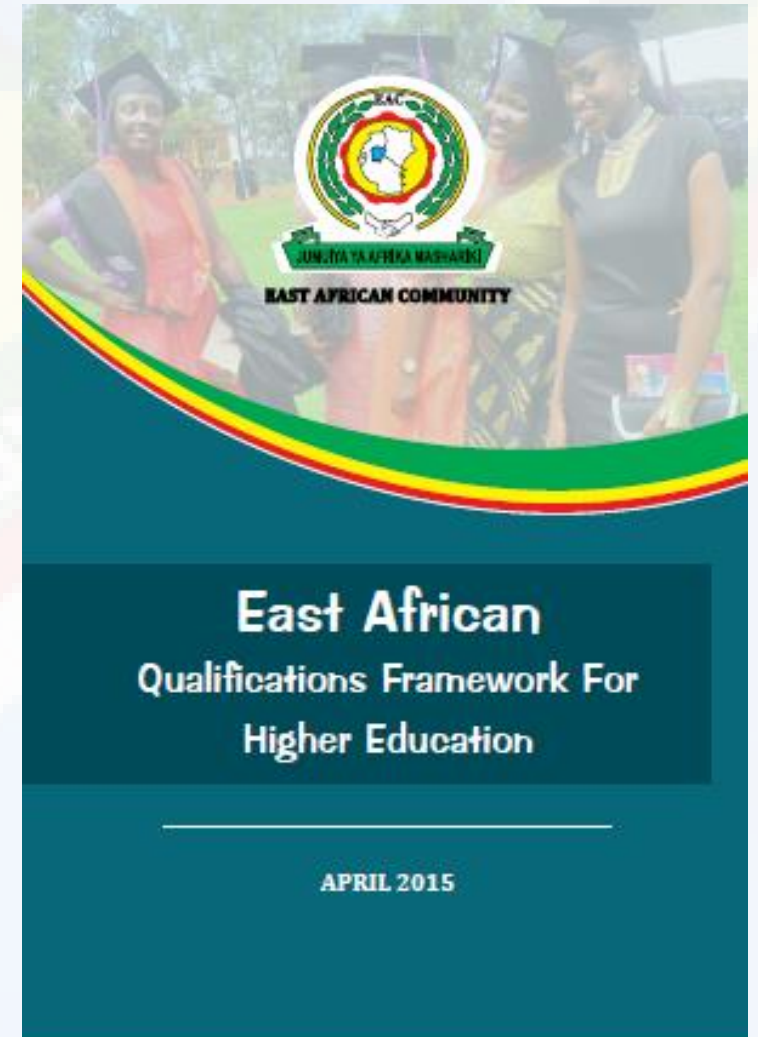




2. East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education



- ❖ Adopted in 2015 as an overarching framework for harmonisation of higher education and training systems in the EAC region
- ❖ Provides the framework for mutual recognition of qualifications among the EAC Partner States, thereby enabling free movement of students and labour in the Partner States
- ❖ Provides international comparability of qualifications in EAC
- ❖ Promotes workers and learners' mobility in the Community - CATS and Mutual Recognition of Qualifications
- ❖ Facilitates lifelong learning through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)





Quality Assurance in EAQFHE and Programme Benchmarking



EAQFHE – Qualifications Programme Benchmarking Policy (Annex V)

- A useful policy tool for programme development and review
- Require benchmarks to set out the expected **attributes and competencies** of graduates (knowledge, skills, attitudes)
- Require benchmarks to defines the nature and extent of the programme content, teaching, learning and assessment
- Policy requires benchmarks to define **expected learning outcomes**; thus, it is **outcome-based, learner-centred** and allow for flexibility and innovation in programmes

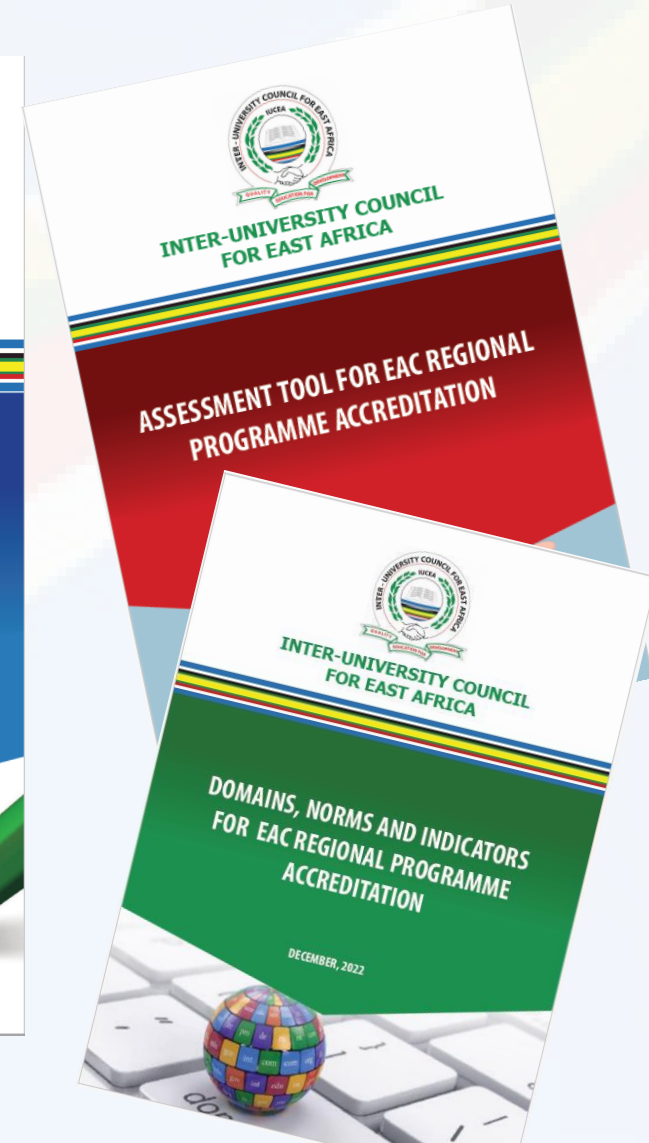
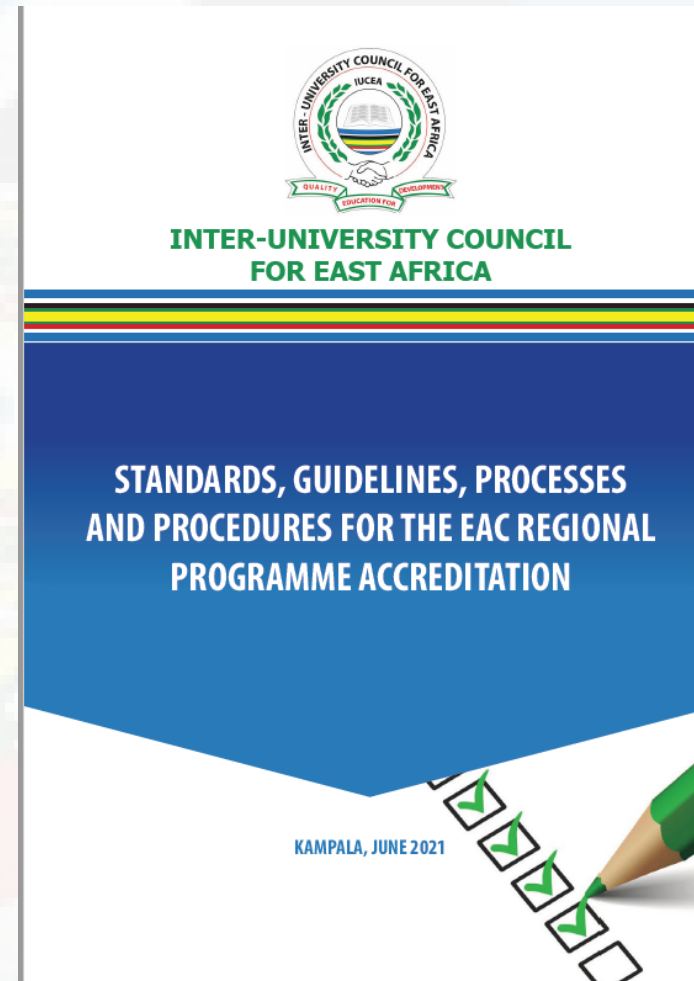




3. Quality Assurance in Programme Accreditation in East Africa



- ❖ EAC has, since 2022, adopted a Regional Programme Accreditation Framework.
- ❖ The Framework is defined by Standards, Guidelines, procedures, and assessment tools.
- ❖ This accreditation process is **Voluntary, Quality-based** mechanism, anchored on **National Accreditation** process.





4. Quality Assurance Networking



- The East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN) was established in 2012 by QA practitioners as a regional vehicle to:

- Promote quality of higher education
- Champion and entrench QA culture in HE in EAC
- Sustain the regional QA system



FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK 2012-2014

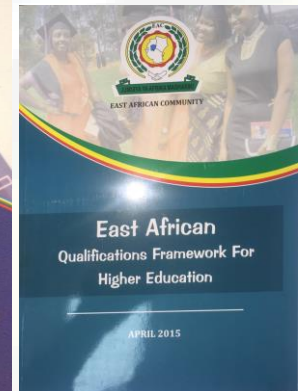
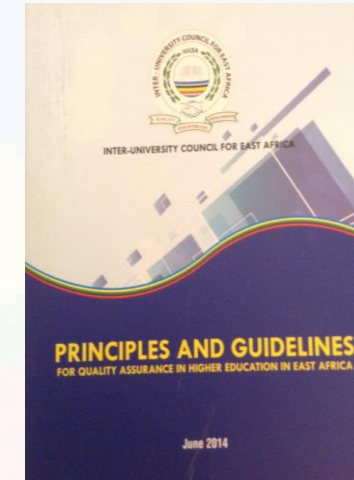
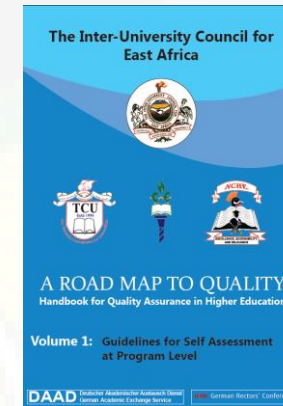




Strategies for Establishing the Regional QA System in EAC



- **Development** of relevant QA policies based on international best practices for harmonizing higher education systems in the region.
- **Capacity building** for operationalization of the system and provision for sustainability.
- **Holding QA dialogue events** with key stakeholders for buy-in and policy support.
- **Quality Assurance Networking** for entrenching a quality culture in the higher education system





Thank You
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