



Ministry of Education
and Higher Education



European Commission
TEMPUS

Quality Assurance Model TLQAA Roundtable March 27, 2012

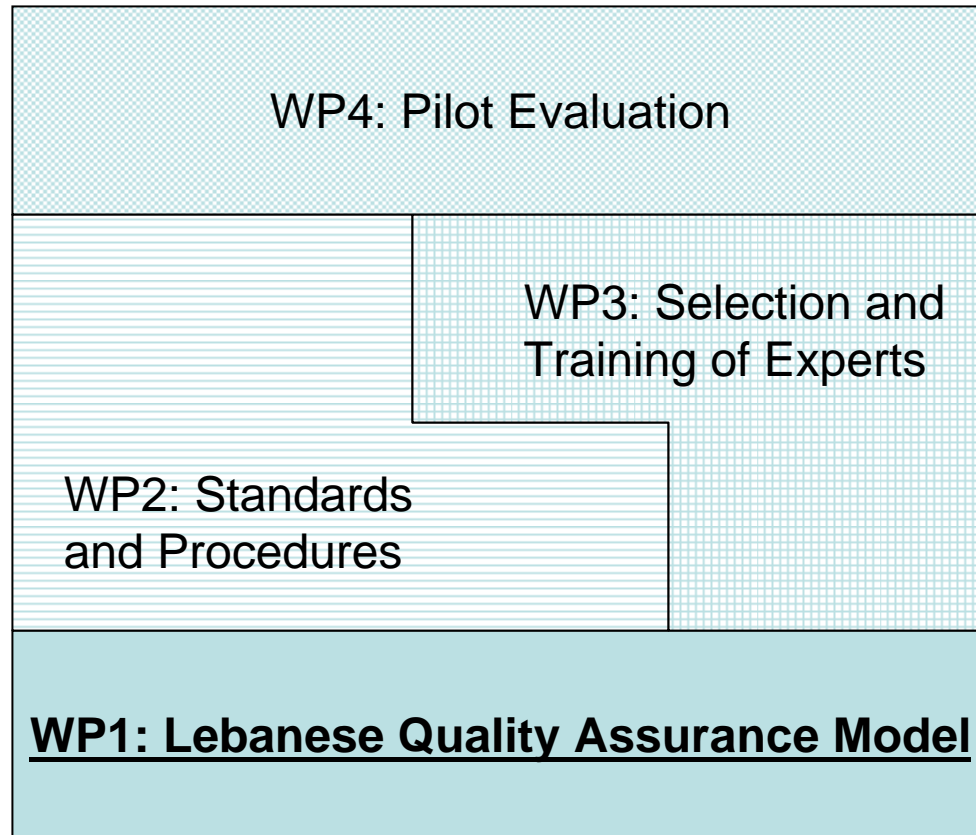
Background

- Quality has always been a sign of the Lebanese Higher Education
 - Institutions with long history and experience
 - Highly competitive system
- In the past decades:
 - Central role of higher education (socio economic facts worldwide)
 - Fast development of science and technology
 - Large development of the Lebanese Higher Education
 - E.g. Number of students increasing at a rate of 4% per year

Background

- Several activities conducted in the direction of Quality Assurance
 - Activities and Committees at the Ministry-DGHE
 - Several projects
 - Tempus: QAHEL, LEPAC, ...
 - UNDP: EQAIP, ...
 - AMIDEAST
- Several Lebanese Universities have undergone an external evaluation
 - Institutional and programmatic
 - AUB, USJ, LAU, ...
 - AERES, NEASC, ABET, IEP, ...
- Draft Law
 - Resulting from a multitude of consultations
- Tempus TLQAA

TLQAA



Bases of the Proposed Model

- **Principles**

- A single independent quality assurance agency is a key element of the national quality assurance framework
- The quality assurance agency should rely on clearly stated minimum acceptable quality that defines a threshold
- The national QA agency should develop specific standards, criteria and reference in order to take into consideration the different types of programmes and organizations
- Peer review is fundamental in the evaluation process conducted in a Quality Assurance system
- The internal and external QA processes are not ranking processes
- The primary responsibility for quality assurance in higher education lies with each institution itself through its commitment to self-study, external peer review, and the employment of quality assurance mechanisms and institutional best practices

Bases of the Proposed Model

- Principles (cont.)
 - As a result of an evaluation, the national quality assurance agency should identify the strengths, weaknesses and critical points. It is the responsibility of the institution not the agency to define a process to respond to the concerns raised
 - The national quality assurance agency could award accreditation or develop quality labels as incentive to the development of quality
 - The strength of the link between education and research is a criterion with regard to the quality of university higher education
 - A distinction between higher education (post secondary) and university education (based on research) may have sense and stimulate quality
 - Stakeholders and students have an active role to play in external and internal quality assurance mechanisms
 - External quality assurance should help and foster the development of internal quality assurance mechanisms
 - The national quality assurance system should be a learning system
 - The national QA agency should be a learning organization

Proposed Model

- **Architecture and Goals**
 - Single and Independent QA Agency
 - Institutional Improvement
 - Accountability
 - Mandatory Process
 - Coverage and Scope
 - Follow-up
 - Respect of Diversity
 - Involvement of Stakeholders

Proposed Model

- **Architecture and Goals (cont.)**
 - International Good Practices and Experts
 - Clear Appeal Process
 - Transparency
 - Confidentiality
 - Training
 - Awareness Raising

Proposed Model

- **Outcomes**
 - Standards
 - Procedures
 - Evaluation Experts
 - Accreditation and Quality Labels
 - Training and Awareness Raising Materials
 - Reporting and Internal Quality Assurance
 - Studies, Papers and International Conferences

Proposed Model

- **Organization**
 - Board of Trustees
 - (Best possible) Representative of the Stakeholders
 - Oversee the large directions of the Agency
 - Agency Board and President
 - Executive
 - Agency Offices
 - Organization and Support
 - Advisors
 - Experts
 - Peer Review and Evaluation

Conclusions

- **A Proposed Model Centered on an Evaluation Agency**
 - Independent
 - Seeking Quality Improvement
 - Producing Public Reports about Quality
- **In a First Stage**
 - Institutional Evaluation
 - General Survey to Map the Disciplines in Lebanon
 - Start Programmatic Evaluation per Domain/Discipline

Conclusions

- Targeted Agency is a Learning Organisation Seeking to Accompany the Development of the Lebanese Higher Education
- Licensing, Authorization and Recognition are Performed by the Ministry