

Inter-agency cooperation in the quality assurance of TNE: *some recent developments*

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Structure of the presentation

- The QACHE Project
- The QACHE Toolkit
- QAA/INQAAHE study on challenges and limits to inter-agency cooperation

The QACHE project (2013-16)

- Funded by the European Commission
- Undertaken by a project consortium led by ENQA:
 - ❑ ANECA (Spain), GAC (Germany), HCERES (France), QAA (UK), TEQSA (Australia)
 - ❑ APQN and ANQAHE
- Main aim: Enhance international practice in the QA of TNE / CBHE
- Main output: A Toolkit for QAAs to enhance inter-agency cooperation in the QA of TNE / CBHE

Cross-Border Higher Education (CBHE):

‘education in which the learners are located in a country different from the one where the awarding institution is based’

(UNESCO/Council of Europe 2001 *Code of Good Practice in the provision of transnational education*)

QACHE's three phases

Phase 1 – Information gathering

Regional networks surveys (ENQA, APQN, ANQAHE)

European providers survey (SP, DE, FR, UK)

Country reports (ANECA, GAC, HCERES, QAA, TEQSA)

Phase 2 – Regional expert forums

Europe (UK), Gulf (Bahrain), Asia (Macao)

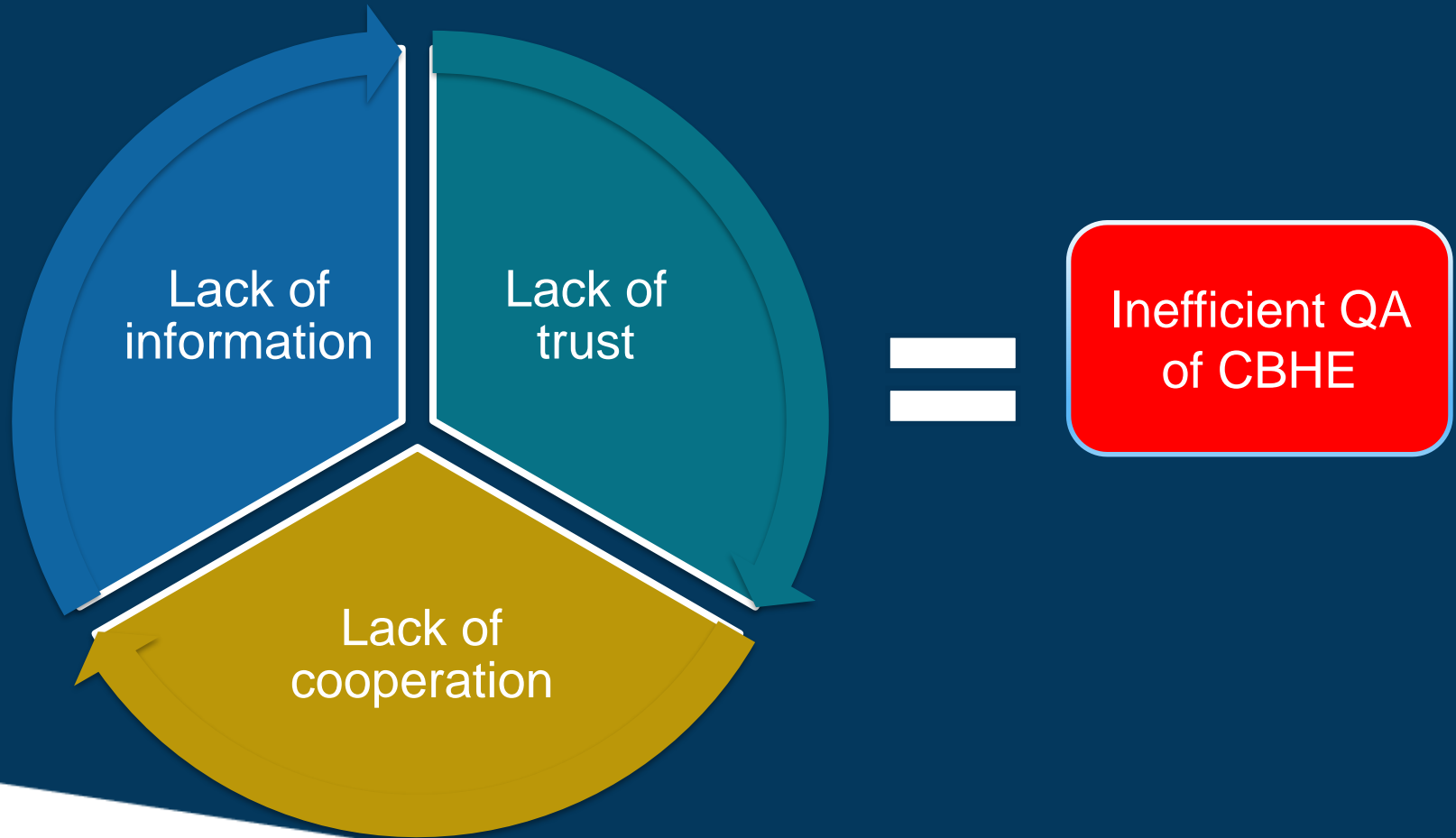
Phase 3 – Deliverable

Toolkit

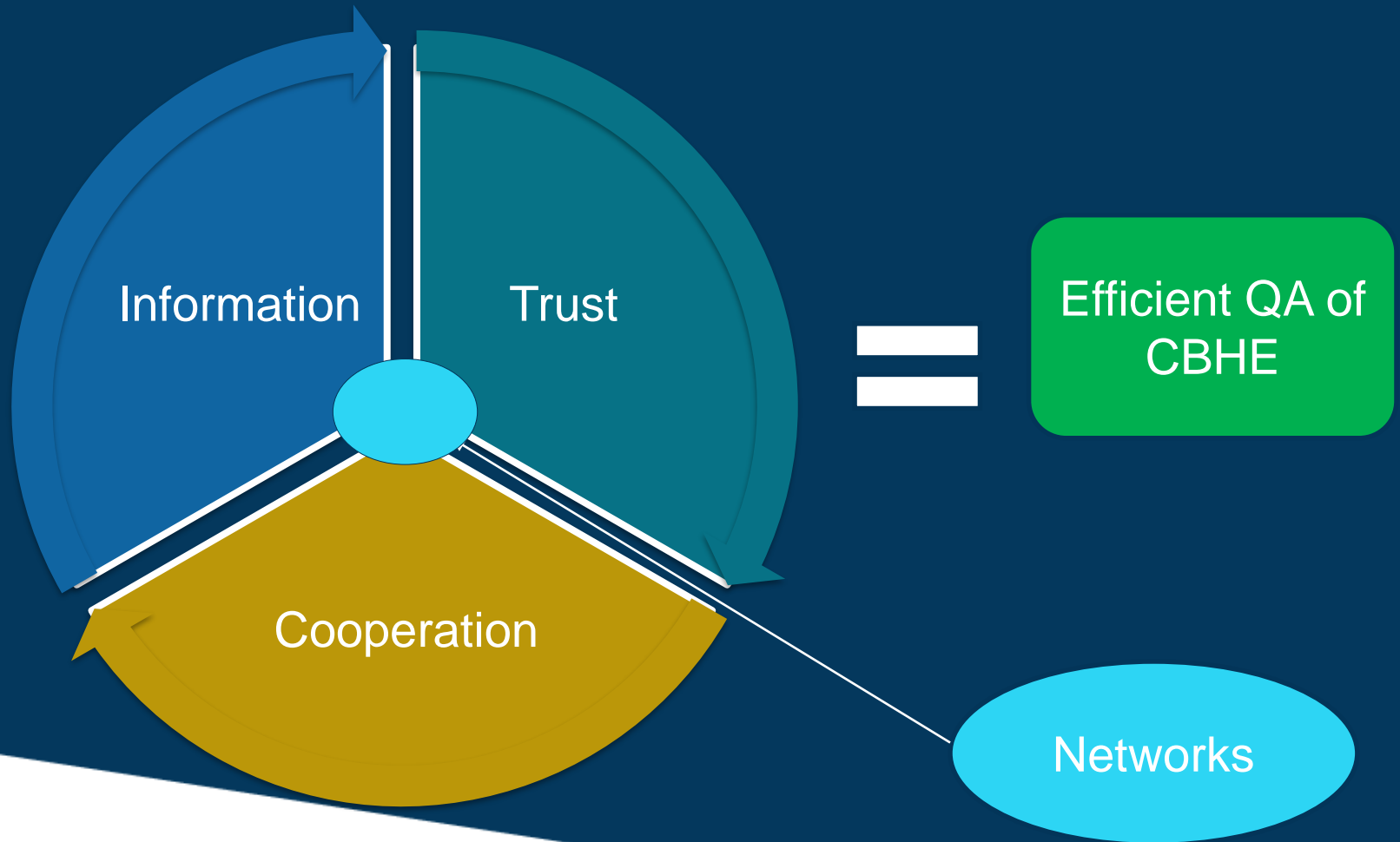
Key findings

- Diversity of approaches and regulatory frameworks for CBHE (in/out-bound)
- Lack of information and knowledge of other agencies' frameworks/approaches
- A 'trust gap' between home and host countries about the quality of CBHE
- Lack of cooperation in the QA of CBHE

The QACHE vicious circle



The QACHE virtuous circle



The Toolkit



Offers practical guidance on:

(1) *Information sharing*: how QAAs can improve the sharing of information on CBHE

(2) *Cooperation in quality assurance*: how QAAs can enhance cooperation in its quality assurance

(3) *Networks of agencies*: how networks of QAAs can facilitate information sharing and cooperation

Information sharing

QAAs should share information about their respective QA systems and about cross-border providers, *with a view to facilitating mutual understanding and building mutual trust*

- 1.1. *have clear and accessible policies for the QA of CBHE*
- 1.2. *make easily accessible a list of those institutions they have quality assured, including any eventual list of quality assured CBHE provision, and associated reports*
- 1.3. *seek to establish regular channels of communication to facilitate information sharing, strengthen mutual understanding, and explore ways in which to cooperate in the QA of CBHE*

Cooperation in quality assurance

QAAs should seek to coordinate and cooperate in their review activity of cross-border higher education, *with a view to avoiding regulatory gaps and duplication of efforts, and to lessening the regulatory burdens on providers.*

2.1. contact the counterpart agency whenever undertaking review of inbound or outbound CBHE

2.2. seek ways to make use of or rely on each other's collected information or quality assurance decisions

2.3. seek ways in which review activity of CBHE could be undertaken jointly

Networks of agencies

Networks of quality assurance agencies should facilitate inter-agency cooperation and the implementation of the QACHE Toolkit

3.1. facilitate information sharing about quality assurance and higher education systems in their member agencies' countries.

3.2. strengthen cooperation with other networks to promote policy dialogue, information sharing, and dissemination of good practice on the quality assurance of CBHE.

3.3. undertake projects and initiatives aimed at supporting agencies in implementing the recommendations included in this Toolkit.

The scope of the Toolkit

- ✓ It is directed exclusively at QAAs (and networks)
 - ✓ It does not issue guidelines for the QA of CBHE
 - ✓ It is not prescriptive
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- It acknowledges that QAAs don't operate in isolation
 - It recognise and respects the diversity of QAAs

QAA/INQAAHE QACHE follow-up

- Aimed at studying the limits and challenges to the implementation of the QACHE Toolkit...
- ...with a view to helping agencies developing viable strategies for enhanced cross-border cooperation
- based on a survey of QAA's partner agencies (10) in key TNE countries, organised around the QACHE Toolkit's sections: *Information sharing, Cooperation in QA activities, Networks of agencies*

Surveyed Agencies

- China Academic Degrees and Graduate Academic Information (CDGDC), China
- China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), China
- Council for Private Education (CPE), Singapore
- Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), Dubai, UAE
- Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), Hong Kong
- Malaysia Qualifications Agency (MQA), Malaysia
- National Institute for Academic Degree and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), Japan
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), Ireland
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australia
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), USA

INQAAHE / QAA project on the challenges to inter-agency cooperation

Trust building is critical, but takes times & resources

- Adopt a strategic approach and long term commitment to partnership building

Engage with all key stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the QACHE Toolkit

- with governments to enable policy/legislative change
- with institutions to identify areas of synergy and cooperation
- with students to understand their expectations for TNE

An emerging shared view

It is essential to cooperate across borders to address the QA challenges posed by TNE, and fully harness the opportunities it offer for meeting unmet demands for quality and relevant higher education provision

Agencies share the view of their role as facilitators of quality and relevant cross-border provision

Thank you



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