

EHEA-Africa 2nd Conversation – Biographies

Plenary Session

Daniela Cristina Ghițulică



Cristina Ghițulică is Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Politehnica University of Bucharest, Romania, with an academic career of more than 25 years long. Prof. Ghițulică is also General Manager of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) since 2022. She was the Vice-President of the ARACIS Council between 2015 and 2021. She has an extensive experience in the field of quality assurance as she has been working at ARACIS in different capacities, namely an external evaluator and member of the

Distance Education Commission since 2009.

At the international level, Prof. Ghițulică is a member of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) on behalf of the Romanian Ministry of National Education since 2012. She was a co-chair of the BFUG during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1st of January – 30th of June 2019). She is currently co-chair of the BFUG Thematic Peer Group C (TPG-C) on Quality Assurance and of the Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community.

In the past, Prof. Ghițulică was the President of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) while since 2014 she was a member of the board of the network. Mrs. Ghițulică was elected in 2018 as a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) Board and since 2019 she is Vice-President of the same organization.

Michael Mawa



Professor Michael Mawa is the Head of the Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework Unit at the Inter-University Council for East-Africa (IUCEA). Prof. Mawa has a substantial experience in quality assurance in higher education as he previously served as the Director of Quality Assurance at Nkumba University, Uganda. He is the founding President of the Ugandan Universities Quality Assurance Forum (UUQAF) and founding President of the East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN).

Prof. Mawa has served as a Quality Assurance Expert in programme assessment, institutional assessment and quality assurance training for the National Council for Higher Education in Uganda, the Commission for University Education in Kenya, the Tanzania Commission for Universities and the Inter-University Council for East Africa. He has also been engaged in

quality assurance trainings organized under the Higher Education (DIES) of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) TrainIQA programme for West Africa and SADC region. He has been trainer as well for the IIEP-UNESCO Internal Quality Assurance Training Programme for universities in Africa and Middle East.

Andreas Snildal



Andreas Snildal is a Programme Specialist at UNESCO's Section of Higher Education. He holds a PhD from the University of Oslo, Sweden, where he also has worked as a lecturer and researcher in modern history. Before joining UNESCO in 2017, Dr Snildal worked as a Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Agency for Quality in Education (NOKUT).

English Breakout Session

Chiara Finocchietti



Mrs. Chiara Finocchietti is an expert in the evaluation of foreign qualifications and higher education systems. She is also a geographer and comes from academia and world of research. She is currently the Director of CIMEA-NARIC (Italian Academic Equivalence Mobility Information Center). She is Vice President of the ENIC Bureau and an expert in the Council of Europe Ethics Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED) Platform.

Finocchietti is the co-chair of the Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention (TPG-B on LRC) together with France and Albania. She is the author of various publications about credential evaluation, and she participates in numerous international projects on the same topic.

James Keevy



James Keevy is an experienced policy researcher that has worked in South Africa, Africa and internationally for the last 25 years. Following 13 years at the South African Qualifications Authority in research policy and international liaison capacities, he joined JET Education Services in 2014 as the chief executive. His specific areas of expertise include qualifications, the recognition of learning, digitalisation, and the professionalisation and migration of teachers.

Mr Keevy has worked closely with several international agencies, including the OECD, ILO, World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth of Learning, SADC Secretariat, African Union Commission, and others. At present his main expertise lies in the ability to oversee large multinational research and evaluation teams to execute programmes in a robust and efficient manner. He brings a strong international network and perspective that has translated into a wide range of published research, most recently, this includes a mapping study on qualifications for the African Union Commission, as well as a review of the research response in South Africa to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Irene Esther Mutuzo



Mrs. Irene Esther Mutuzo Sevume currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Interoperable Learner Records Workgroup of the Learning Technology Standards Committee of the IEEE Standards Association which is an approved working group with authorization to gather, curate, set in context, and share standard recommended practices for Integrated Learner Records (ILR).

She is the Head of Business Growth and PR of Diwala. Through leveraging SSI standards and blockchain technology, Diwala provides a digital platform that enables secure and efficient issuance and verification of credentials for individuals and businesses. Irene is also an educator at Makerere University.

With a passion towards digital inclusion, and literacy particularly around the value of Self-sovereign identity standards and blockchain technology, Irene has spoken on various panels and conducted webinars deciphering how SSI standards and blockchain technology can be implemented in the credentialing space in Africa.

An innovative, business, and results-driven personality, Irene has a wealth of experience in Organizational Transformation, Stakeholder Engagement, Marketing, Strategy & Business Development, ICT, Media and Human Capital Management, having previously worked with organizations like Greenhill Academy in Uganda, Brightermonday, Vision Group - Uganda and United Bank for Africa.

She is part of the mentoring team at Project Girls for Girls Global and is a member of the Human Resources Association of Uganda (HRMAU), Public Relations Association of Uganda (PRAU) and Rotary Club of Kampala City.

She is also an ICT consultant, particularly in the sectors of education, Human Resources and Communications and has consulted with organizations like CARE International in Uganda and the Uganda Law Reform Commission.

Helene Peterbauer



Helene Peterbauer is a Policy Analyst at the Institutional Development unit, European University Association (EUA) in Brussels, Belgium. Her focus is on learning and teaching in the higher education sector, as well as academic recognition. She is a former scientific staff at the University of Vienna (Institute of European and Comparative Language and Literature Studies), Austria. She has a comprehensive experience in communication, teaching, research, and administration.

French Breakout Session:

Valérie Fontaine



Valérie Fontaine is currently a Belgian expert in the valorisation of prior learning for Adult Education (“Enseignement de Promotion Sociale”) organized by the French Community of Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation). She has worked her whole life in adult education in different positions: 15 years as a Dutch teacher in an higher education institution dedicated to adult education, she then reoriented herself towards the Ministry of Higher Education in the French Community of Belgium and the Coordination and Management of the European Social Fund (ESF). She was then offered the management of an adult higher education institution and then of a second one. She returned 7 years later to the General Service for Lifelong Learning within the Ministry where she coordinated the valorisation and recognition of prior learning in adult education higher education institutions for 8 years and promotes it to any public or private national or international institution.

Lamine Gueye



Professor Lamine Gueye was the Dean of the faculty of medicine of Gaston Berger University in 2010, Vice chancellor of this same university in 2012, then Vice chancellor of Alioune Diop University of Bambey for 5 years.

He is currently Executive Secretary of the National Quality Assurance Authority for Higher Education, research and innovation in Senegal.

He is the President for RAFANAQ (African Network of Francophone Quality Assurance National Agencies) and vice-president of AfriQAN (The African Quality Assurance Network).

Michaela Martin



Michaela Martin is a Programme Specialist at the International Institute for Educational Planning - Unesco who specialized over the past twenty years in selected areas of higher education policy making, planning and management, both at the systems and the institutional levels. She has been specifically working on flexible learning pathways in higher education, the Internal and external quality assurance in higher education, indicator systems for higher education, management of university-enterprise partnerships, tertiary education in small states, management of higher education

institutions.

Portuguese Breakout Session

Eduarda Castel-Branco



Eduarda Castel-Branco has extensive professional experience in international cooperation and works in the European Training Foundation (www.etf.europa.eu).

Member of EQF Advisory Group since 2013, provided technical advice to EQF referencing process of several ETF partner countries. Advised Georgia, Morocco, and Moldova on development of NQF legislation, governance, and implementation plan. Coordinated development of the system of validation of non-formal and informal learning in Georgia and North Macedonia. Contributed to joint research projects with

Cedefop and UNESCO on comparison of qualifications. Contributes regularly to “Global Inventory of Qualifications Frameworks” (Cedefop, ETF, UNESCO). Author of the report culminating the comparison process between EQF and NQF of Cabo Verde (2023).

Since 2019: thematic adviser and coordinator to African Union – European Union Partnership project developing the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) - 2019-2022. Co-author of ACQF Policy Document (2022). Co-author of technical and analytical reports such as comprehensive ACQF mapping study report, six NQF country reports, ACQF Guidelines and Training Modules. Leads network of ACQF Peer Learning. Provides technical advice to several African countries on their NQFs and RPL systems. Technical advice to SADCQF: author of review report, presentations to Joint Meetings of ESTI Ministers. Coordinator of ACQF-II (2023-2026, project supporting implementation of ACQF).

Ana Maria Nhampule



Ana Maria Nhampule is the Vice-Rector of Universidade Joaquim Chissano, with more than 30 years of professional experience as an educationist. She is the Former President of the Mozambican National Council for Assessment and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (CNAQ). And she has participation in international bodies and initiatives for the development and implementation of quality assurance mechanisms as member of the Southern African Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA), from 2015 to 2021; Member of advisory board on continental projects for harmonization of higher education (HAQAA (2015-2020), Tuning Africa II (2016-2019), ACQF (2019-2020)) and member of technical committees (Technical Working Group for the Establishment of the Pan-African Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (2020-2022); and Taskforce for the establishment of the African Credits Transfer System for higher education (2022)). She participated in the processes of establishment and implementation of training programs in public administration and management. In curriculum development, she also has experience on research, design, and implementation of programs for higher education, basic education, and teacher/training.