



Quality Assurance of Cross-Border Higher Education (QACHE) – moving towards strengthened cooperation

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Going Global – post-conference workshop

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QAche

Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education



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*)

Overview

The QACHE project: its aims and activities

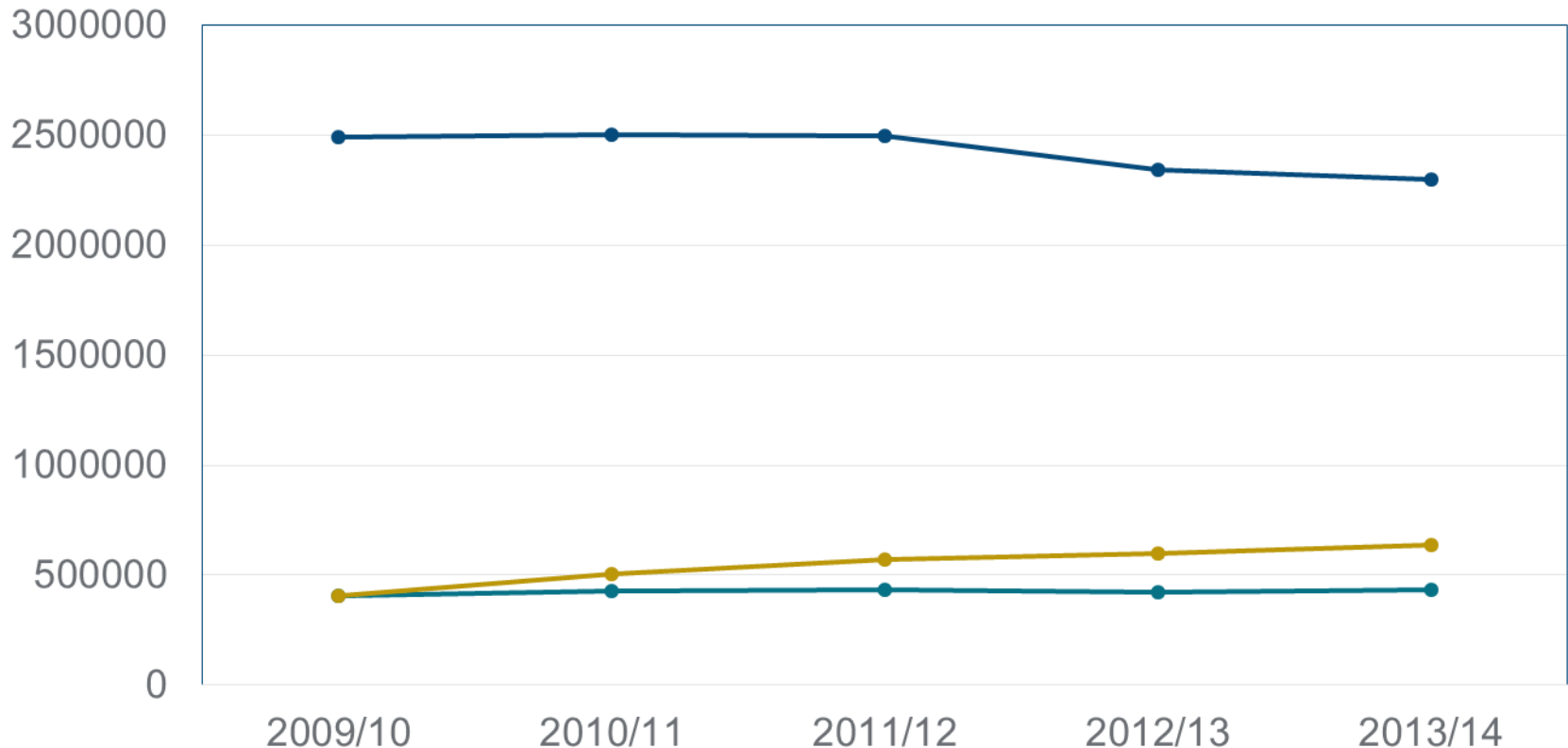
...its findings and outcomes

...the QACHE Toolkit

...first, need for inter-agency cooperation: a visible case from the UK



The main area of growth in UK HE



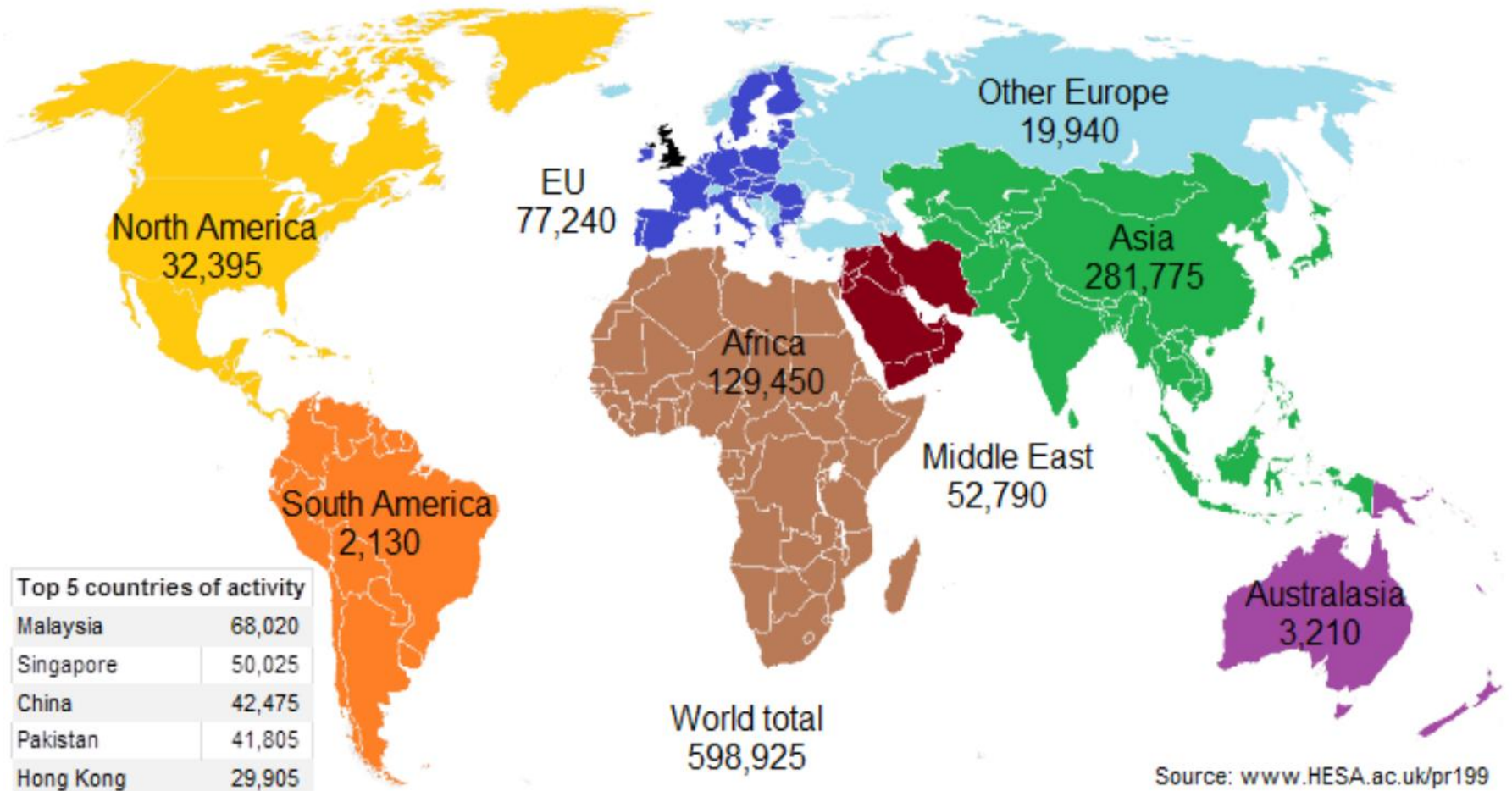
—●— Total students in the UK

—●— International students in the UK

—●— Off-shore students

Spread of UK TNE

Students studying wholly overseas by geographic region of activity 2012/13



The QACHE project (2013-15)

- 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 aims:
 - ❑ enhance international practice in the QA of CBHE
 - ❑ develop an European approach to the QA of CBHE

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 – Deliverables

Toolkit and Guidelines

Phase 1: information gathering

- Regulation of and information about CBHE is patchy
 - Absence of a common approach to CBHE
 - Absence of developed QA systems for CBHE
 - Absence of comprehensive data about CBHE
 - Lack of reciprocal understanding by sending & host countries of each other's QA frameworks

Phase 1: information gathering

- Strengthening inter-agency cooperation is unanimously seen as the way forward to
 - promote mutual understanding
 - share information and good practice
 - build mutual trust
 - facilitate the QA of CBHE
- Regional networks seen as playing a key role in facilitating information sharing / cooperation

Phase 2: regional expert forums

- Facilitated policy dialogue between sending and receiving countries of CBHE
- Informed the development of the Toolkit, highlighting the need to
 - consolidate existing international guidelines
 - provide new and useful guidance
 - address the ‘trust gap’ between sending and receiving countries about the quality of CBHE

Phase 3: the Toolkit

- Complement the UNESCO/APQN Toolkit's effort to support the implementation of the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines
- Offers guidance on how agencies can realise that mutual understanding, trust and cooperation required to 'share the responsibility of quality assuring CBHE' (UNESCO/OECD)
- Directed primarily at agencies, but also included recommendation for networks and HE providers
- Respects the autonomy of different national systems
- Sets out general recommendations supported by explanatory text

The Toolkit: Information

With a view to facilitating mutual understanding and building mutual trust, QA agencies should:

- *have clear and accessible policies about their approach to in-bound and out-bound CBHE*
- *make easily accessible a list of those institutions they have quality assured or accredited, including any eventual list of quality assured or accredited CBHE provision and associated reports*
- *seek to establish regular channels of communication to facilitate information sharing and strengthen mutual understanding*

The Toolkit: Cooperation

With a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and lessen the regulatory burden on providers, QA agencies should:

- *liaise whenever undertaking review of CBHE*
- *consider whether they would be able to make use of each other collected information or quality assurance/accreditation decisions*
- *consider ways in which review activity of CBHE could be undertaken jointly*

The Toolkit: Networks

With a view to facilitating inter-agency cooperation and the implementation of the Toolkit, QA networks should:

- *consider ways in which they could serve as first point of contact for obtaining information about QA and HE systems and recognised providers in their member agencies' countries*
- *strengthen cooperation with other networks to promote policy dialogue, information sharing, and dissemination of good practice*
- *consider ways to align regional standards and guidelines to facilitate cooperation between agencies from different regions*

The Toolkit: Providers

With a view to facilitating the external quality assurance of CBHE and effective cooperation amongst agencies, HE providers should:

- *make publicly available and accessible up-to-date data and information about their CBHE activity*
- *make publicly available and accessible updated information about their internal quality assurance policies and processes for CBHE*
- *make publicly available and accessible information about any external quality assurance or accreditation that their CBHE has undergone in either the home or host country*

Conclusions

- The project has highlighted the need to:
 - ❑ enhance the national and international oversight of CBHE
 - ❑ address the lack of information about CBHE and different national regulatory approaches to CBHE
 - ❑ strengthen cooperation to facilitate information exchange, policy dialogue and the regulation of CBHE
- A Toolkit for enhanced inter-agency cooperation fills a gap in current international guidance
- Work together to harness the opportunities posed by CBHE, in the interest of students and societies

Thank you



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