



Universidad  
Tecnológica de  
Panamá  
Vicerrectoría de  
Investigación,  
Postgrado y  
Extensión

# IPAC13084821

## “Enhancing QUALity Management & Recognition in Latin American universities to underpin the Latin

### Vigencia del Proyecto

2020 - 2023

### Estado Actual

En Ejecución

### Objetivo General

#### General Objective

?To advance the Latin American Higher Education Space in areas such as recognition of degrees and credits across borders by reinforcing and connecting quality assurance systems for higher education, in which universities and QA agencies are key partners and drivers.

#### ?Specific Objectives

?SO1: To support internal university procedures for quality management, and link them to enhanced processes for the recognition of foreign degrees and credits, with the guidance of a jointly-developed ‘QA Tool-kit’ for Partner countries in Latin America

?SO2: To enhance articulation of university QA Units with international relations offices (IRO) via a training programme, in order to guarantee quality mobility and exchange predicated on mutual recognition

?SO3: To align national and regional QA agency support for the development of quality units within universities, their resourcing, and the promotion and use of common tools for quality enhancement and recognition

?SO4: To further promote in Latin America an understanding of European tools and standards for quality enhancement and recognition in higher education, so that LA and European QA and recognition systems can be easily related.

The EQUAM-LA partnership entails both partners with a long history of cooperation and those that are newer, especially to the E+ programme. It includes partners with experience in managing E+ projects who have built a long-standing cooperation (OBREAL GLOBAL and ASCUN, for example) and also seeks to develop synergies between old and new projects.

?Though EQUAM LA’s objectives are relevant to many countries in Latin America, partners in Argentina, Colombia, Panama and Nicaragua were carefully selected to represent a panorama of capacities and development needs, and also to represent the LA region more holistically. Each country is at a different level in terms of QA systems and processes for recognition. Peer learning and exchange can thus be very fruitful. What is more, Nicaragua and Panama already have the regional framework of Central America and CSUSA, in which they work. CNEA in Nicaragua has explicit ambitions, as a younger agency, to expand Latin American cooperation with counterparts.

### Resumen

Enhancing QUALity Management and Recognition in Latin American universities to underpin the Latin American Higher Education Space (EQUAM-LA)

Equam-La aims at advancing the Latin American Higher Education Space in areas such as recognition of degrees and credits across borders by reinforcing and connecting quality assurance systems for higher education, in which universities and QA agencies are key partners and drivers.

The development of quality assurance (QA) systems in Latin American countries has been a topical issue for over a decade, both nationally and in the context of the Latin American Higher Education Space, which is now driven by ‘ENLACES’, an agreement of major university associations across the region

(<http://espacioenlaces.org>). Many countries have either developed new QA agencies, tasked with both accreditation (Panama and Nicaragua), or have established agencies that have been reforming their models and re-defining how they engage with universities, to install a better quality culture at the institutional level (Colombia and Argentina). Despite the existing opportunities for capacity building, there remains a considerable demand to strengthen internal QA procedures within universities, especially linked to certain fields. Enhancing internal QA management and linking it to processes for recognition should improve the international stance of universities in LA, especially when geared towards standards that have been agreed internationally. In addition, it is important that QA and related structural matters such as recognition become shared endeavours of QA agencies, national authorities and universities, so that each national system with its national 'architecture' for QA and accreditation is recognized across borders. EQUAM-LA hence proposes to support universities and national agencies to work together to improve and reinforce internal QA management and processes and link them to specific areas, like recognition, so as to underpin regional integration.

**Área de Investigación**

Educación en Ingeniería

**Sector al que pertenece**

Higher Education

**Programa al que se adscribe**

Colaboración Internacional en I+D

**Sede Ejecutora**

Panamá

**Unidad o Facultad Ejecutora**

RECTORIA

**Sitio Web**

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/609826-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP>

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