



## Strategic Support for Accreditation of Programs and Internationalization at South Asian Higher Education Institutes (HEIs)



Towards developing a comprehensive framework for the standardisation of Higher Education policies, procedures and systems in partner countries' HEI with a strategic focus on intellectual capital and building a knowledge-based economy.

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- Main Activities
- Partners, Team and more!





## STRATEGIC SUPPORT FOR ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION AT SOUTH ASIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES (HEIS)

A joint project venture of 11 institutions in 6 partnering countries aiming towards capacity building in the field of higher education.



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## BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Because of globalization, standardization leading to accreditation of academic programs has become an utmost requirement for quality education in HEIs.

In order to achieve it, there are various challenges faced by Asian partner country Higher Education Institutions, which resulted in creating the motivation towards undertaking this project. The partner countries face the challenge of strong competition with international institutions because of the easy and wide access to higher education abroad.

The project partnership consists of 9 South Asian Universities and 2 renowned European Universities to guide the South Asian partners. This project aims to create learning and practising opportunities for partner country HEIs staff including administrative staff, faculty, students and researchers. Training of faculty and staff will help to learn how to improve the quality of education at partner countries HEIs. This project will contribute effectively to creating reforms in the overall higher education system of the partner HEIs.

Overall, the project aims to develop a comprehensive framework for the standardization of Higher Education systems, policies and procedures, working together towards a knowledge-driven and intensive economy with a special focus on quality and improvement of intellectual assets of the partner country HEIs.





## GOALS OF SSAPI

1. To create awareness among staff, and also in students, about the importance of higher education, which is standardised as well as accredited by the international bodies.
2. To develop and implement the standards and processes for internal and external quality audit systems in higher education institutes of partner institutions.
3. To develop a system to engage students and staff for the integration of education, research and innovation to achieve long terms goals and objectives.

## OBJECTIVES OF SSAPI

1. Capacity building for the development of well-defined & documented policies & procedures.
2. Implementation of mechanisms to assess & evaluate academic activities in line with international best practices.
3. Identifying key focus areas for improvements.
4. Drafting action plans towards quality enhancement in teaching, learning & administration.
5. Developing a qualifications framework, in line with international standards.
6. Conducting training towards the improvement of systems, policies and procedures based on the key focus areas identified.
7. Establishing sustainable processes & mechanisms for management and continuous improvement of teaching & learning.
8. Developing standardisation mechanisms & quality assurance processes & methods of evaluation.
9. Strengthening the integration of education, research and innovation to achieve long term socio-economic objectives.





## ROLE OF ASIAN PARTNERS

The project enhances access and the quality of tertiary education through international collaborations. The project will help the partner country HEIs to be a centre of excellence in the field of science, technology, management and social sciences by offering quality programmes that are relevant to the need of the job market both within and outside their countries.

1. The HEIs will be able to attract international students
2. The international academics will aspire and opt to work for the HEIs
3. The graduates of HEIs will be able to compete for jobs in the international job market and are embraced for their qualities related to Gross National Happiness (GNH) based values and behaviour
4. The universities and academic institutions of international repute will get into active linkages with the HEIs
5. The universities and academic institutions all across the world welcome graduates of the HEIs for further studies
6. The HEIs are recognized as the hub of knowledge and expertise





## ROLE OF EUROPEAN PARTNERS



The European HEIs: UEvora Portugal and the University of Bremen will serve as guides and facilitators for the HEIs of the partner countries to identify the gaps, the necessary changes required, to generate a plan and to develop appropriate measures to fulfil the requirements to ensure international comparability in the standards and quality of higher-education qualifications.

- The European HEIs has accomplished the process of ensuring comparability in the standards and quality of higher-education qualifications.
- Their home countries belong to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The University of Evora, (UEvora) Portugal and the University of Bremen (UniHB) started by setting common goals and a plan of action, to reach an integrated society, celebrating universal values, rights and diversity.
- They adapted high standard education programs.
- The qualification of their staff and faculty members meets the needs of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention). The same guideline and procedure will be followed by the HEIs of the partner countries.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES



### PHASE 01 Evaluation of the Existing Situation in each Partner HEIs

- Assess & evaluate the existing situation of HEI.
- Identify the weaknesses of HEI and priority areas for improvement through various in-depth exercises and study.
- Identify and target key areas with a special focus based on local needs, priorities as well as the experience of EU partners.

### PHASE 02 Implementation of the Framework of Standardisation and Internationalisation

- Training and capacity building of staff.
- One institution per partner country will be chosen for the implementation of the framework.
- Selection areas will be based only on the locally identified targets.
- Similar protocol will be followed soon after, and based on the experience and review, mechanisms implemented in one HEI of a country will then be implemented in another partner country HEIs.

### PHASE 03 Assessment of the Initial Implementation

- The assessment of the initial implementation will be carried out in partner HEI.
- The performance of HEIs will be measured and improvements made where required.
- The cycle of activities will be done for other target areas, in the partner country HEIs.



## IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

It is expected that through this comprehensive undertaking, the following targets would be reached in each of the partner institutes.

1. Accreditation of academic programs
2. Improved curriculum of academic programs of the university
3. Improved academic and administrative processes of the university
4. Improved research culture of the university

### Key long-term impacts for partner countries

1. Overall improvement in the quality of education & research culture.
2. SSAPI will inspire reform in other HEIs across the region, enhancing the quality of education and research policy structure of HEIs across the country.
3. Continued existence of established structures, agencies and activities at the higher education institutions in Partner Countries long after the project has ended.
4. World recognition of qualifications and research of the partner country, leading to enhanced mobility between European and Partner Countries' HEIs.
5. Enhanced human capacity of the Higher Education Institutions in Partner Countries on standardisation and internationalisation.
6. Current regional frameworks revised for enhanced quality of education, research and innovation, based on the learning outcomes of the project.
7. Know - how on designing effective study programs based on market needs through transferred learning to the HEI in Partner Countries.
8. Increased staff and student mobility in Partner Countries.
9. Enhanced quality education culture through the development of action plans which support the process of teaching, learning and administration services.
10. Modernized infrastructure of higher education.
11. Development of nationwide standardised guidelines for higher education institutes.



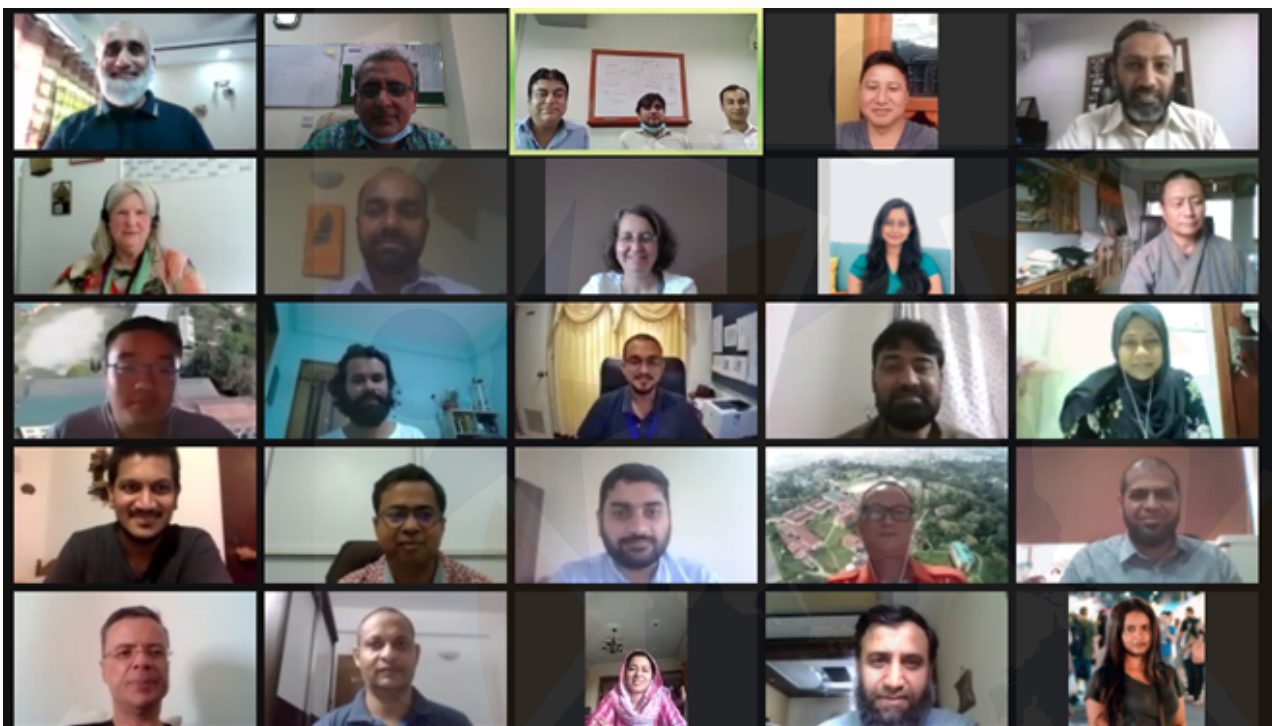


## FIRST MEETING OF THE PROJECT

The first meeting of the EU funded project on “Strategic Support for Accreditation of Programs and Internationalisation at South Asian Higher Education Institutes / SSAPI” was held online on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, via Zoom platform.

The event was attended by representatives of eleven partner HEIs. The inaugural meeting began with a brief introduction by project representatives about their expertise and areas of specialisation, relevant to the project objectives that they seek to achieve through this endeavour.

Since January 2021, following the introductory meeting, the project team meets monthly in order to discuss and deliberate project progress, activities and preparations.



# PROJECT PARTNERS



Capital University of Science & Technology (CUST), Pakistan



University of Bremen (UniHB), Germany



Universidade de Évora (UEvora), Portugal



National University of Computer Emerging Sciences (NUCES), Pakistan



Riphah International University (RIU), Pakistan



University of Peradeniya (UoP), Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), Sri Lanka



Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB), Bhutan



Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), Bhutan



Maldives National University (MNU), Maldives



Villa College (VC), Maldives



## PROJECT TEAM



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