QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACADEMIC CORRUPTION

CAN QA MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
There is evidence of corruption in all sectors, higher education is no exception

Also concern with corruption in higher education, because:

« Competition for resources, fame and notoriety place extraordinary pressures on HEIs... In some HE systems, corruption has undermined the trust in the graduates and research results » (S. Heyneman; Global Corruption Report Education, 2013)
But corruption in HE not a new concern!

- Global attention to corruption in HE has increased since the 90s
- UNESCO-CHEA Advisory Statement on Discouraging Degree Mills (2009)
- UNESCO/IIEP’s work on Ethics and Corruption in education and quality assurance

⇒ Surprisingly little attention to whether QA can play a role in preventing (academic) corruption
Underlying assumption

- If QA mainly is meant to ensure quality standards in higher education, it is also a tool for control and accountability.
  - QA provides public information on the quality of HEIs and their services.
  - QA examines the processes and the functioning of HEIs.
  - QA also investigates whether HEIs have policies, standards and practices to ensure academic integrity.
Why is higher education particularly prone to corruption?

What are the typical incidences of academic corruption in HE?

What can QA do to prevent academic corruption in higher education?

Can QA itself become more resilient against academic corruption?

How can QA agencies and HEIs work best together to best prevent academic corruption?
Three questions for discussion

- There are already a number of codes of good practices that stipulate principles for QA. Are these codes sufficient to make the work of QA agencies resilient against corruption?

- How can QA agencies and HEIs best work together to prevent academic corruption? How can QA agencies support HEIs in this endeavour?

- Should QA agencies work together with other stakeholders (Government, student associations, oversight authorities, civil society) to prevent academic corruption? In what way?