

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACADEMIC CORRUPTION CAN QA MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

CHEA International Quality Group Annual Meeting,
January 25-27, 2016

Introductory remarks

- 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/OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision of Cross-border Higher Education (2005)
 - 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 mainly meant to ensure quality standards in higher education, it QA 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

CHEA Policy Brief, July 2015

- 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 ?