FEASIBILITY STUDY ON EQAS-FOOD IMPLEMENTATION: AN APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE OF HE COURSES

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Food studies are international and are undergoing profound structural transformations as consequence of a world economy in transition. We need to use new technologies and forms of educational process that make use of the major networks to global communication. European Quality Assurance System for Food Studies (EQAS-Food) is a framework for the attribution of a quality label award that will identify high quality studies programmes, undergraduate and postgraduate degree levels of any higher education system. It is the result of the work of ISEKI Food Association (IFA) and academics worldwide from ISEKI projects that studied the viability and interest for accreditation in the area of food studies. An online survey was developed and completed by members of 28 higher education institutions from 22 countries in 4 continents (Africa, America, Asia and Europe). The results showed that 75% were interested in implementing the EQAS-Food award in at least one bachelor or master degree; 18% of the countries have Quality Assurance (QA) programmes with specific focus in food area and all demonstrate interesting in this award implementation and food process and engineering demonstrated to be the most attractive area. In 27% of the countries none QA measurement methods is mandatory. However, only one has not any QA measurement implemented. Almost all of the institutions surveyed were integral or partially financed by government. In conclusion, was possible to identify a gap by the international academic community that would welcome the implementation of accreditation level such as EQAS-Food.

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