QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING: COMPETING OR COMPLIMENTARY ACTIVITIES?

Quality assurance procedures may sometimes be perceived as control mechanisms, that prioritise standardisation, compliance and conformity thereby leaving little space for creativity, new approaches and innovations in the teaching and learning domain. This presentation will explore the relationship between quality assurance and innovative teaching approaches using European principles and guidelines for both quality and teaching and learning, illustrated by practical and experiential examples.

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As Director of Quality Enhancement since 2016, Elizabeth is responsible for the management and development of the university’s quality processes, for education, research and services working closely with the university’s leadership team, students, academic and professional staff across the university as well as international peer experts. During academic year 2022/23 she managed UCC’s successful Institutional Review by Quality & Qualifications Ireland and was part of the programme team that delivered a new innovative postgraduate programme for professional and support staff in higher education. Prior to joining UCC, Elizabeth was seconded from her post as Director of Academic Development at University College Dublin to Ireland’s newly established National Forum for Teaching & Learning Forum as Research Coordinator for the inaugural Irish HE Teaching & Learning Research projects (2014–16). Elizabeth has over thirty years experience of higher education across quality assurance, academic policy and programme development, teaching and learning development, and professional staff development, gained in Scotland and Ireland.