In response to the global need for quality assurance in online education, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU) and its partners joined together in an international consortium for benchmarking online, open, smart and technology-enhanced higher education institutions.

The Benchmarking Framework for Online, Open, Smart and Technology-Enhanced Higher Education unites its members’ expertise to enhance data sharing and quality of online education worldwide. The global initiative is of great importance to the higher education community and the next generations of learners.
The Benchmarking Framework aims to emphasize exemplary levels of quality and improve the reputation and credibility of online, open, smart and technology-enhanced higher education in the global arena.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Establish a common understanding and criteria for quality of online, open, smart and technology-enhanced higher education;
- Develop evaluation framework that fully reflects the quality of the work of flexible, open and online institutions;
- Facilitate sharing of best practices.

The consortium is open to new members from all regions of the world as well as policy-makers, experts and observers from international organizations to facilitate the work and provide for diverse representations, impartiality and global cooperation.

**Timeline**

- **February 2019**: Consortium launched
- **July 2020**: Technical Committee started its work
  - Technical Committee is established to develop the Benchmarking Framework
- **January 2021**: The Framework developed
  - First edition of Benchmarking Framework is presented at the Presidents’ Meeting of the Consortium
- **February 2021**: The Framework announced
  - Benchmarking Framework is officially announced at Innovation Arabia 14 Conference.
- **April 2021**: Pilot implementation
  - 5 participating Universities begin the pilot implementation of framework

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CONSORTIUM AND ITS MEMBERSHIP**

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