European Approach for QA of JP: Current Status and Future Challenges

ECA-NVAO Seminar
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Application (2)

- Designed to be used directly
- If programme accreditation/evaluation needed:
  - Consortium of HEIs: check legal frameworks
  - Consortium: identify suitable QA agency
  - QAA: check capacity, availability
  - QAA: communicate with other ministries/QAAs
  - QAA: carry out evaluation/accreditation
  - Ministries: recognise result/decision
Background and Objectives

- Approaches and pilots for single reviews (e.g. JOQAR)
  - Working, but complex
- Need to accommodate different national criteria
  - Not always quality-related, but often structural
  - Sometimes contradictory (e.g. # of ECTS Master thesis)
  - Make sense nationally, but difficult to understand for foreign peers
- Consequence: “fragmented reviews” often the easiest solution
- Aim
  - Ease accreditation of joint programmes
  - Enable single reviews, reflect the joint character also in QA
Approach

- **The idea:** one agreed and consistent European framework for quality assurance of joint programmes
- No additional national criteria

- Adopted by EHEA ministers in Yerevan (May 2015)
European Approach, based on ESG & QF-EHEA, and Bucharest Communiqué ("recognise QA decisions of EQAR-registered agencies on joint and double degree programmes")

Cooperating HEIs need **programme accreditation/eval.**

**Single accreditation/eval. of JP, based on agreed Standards & Procedure**, by any EQAR-reg. agency

**Cooperating HEIs are “self-accrediting”** for programmes, i.e. accredited/evaluated/audited at institutional level

**Joint internal QA review of the JP (in line with ESG), may use agreed Standards**, external review takes account of HEIs' internal

**Recognised to fulfil QA requirements in all countries involved**
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(left track: cooperating HEIs need programme accreditation/evaluation)
EQAR activities

- Information on European Approach
  - Promote amongst stakeholders
  - Frequently asked questions, e.g. definition

- Information on national implementation
  - Will be available on website
  - Contribute to monitoring/stocktaking (in BFUG)

- List of programmes reviewed
  - Transparency where European Approach is used
  - Enable others to identify examples
## Summary & Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple, fragmented reviews</td>
<td>Single review</td>
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<td>Combining various national rules and criteria</td>
<td>Agreed Standards, based on ESG &amp; QF-EHEA</td>
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<td>Complex procedures, ad hoc design</td>
<td>Agreed Procedure</td>
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- Governments: adapt legal frameworks
- QA agencies: pragmatic solutions in using it