

A3ES INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A Brief Overview

ECA 1ST REGIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR IN LISBON

Institutional Accreditation in Europe

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A3ES

External QA in Portugal

➤ Remit of A3ES

- Assessment and accreditation of HEI and study programmes

➤ Prevailing process

- **Programme accreditation**
 - *Ex-ante* – Prior accreditation of new study programmes
 - *Ex-post* – Assessment / (re)accreditation of study programmes in operation every 6 years

➤ Voluntary process

- **Audit model to assess and certify IQAS (since 2012)**
 - 14 IQAS certified so far

Why Institutional Assessment?

➤ 2012 - 2017 Assessment/Accreditation Round

- **2012-2016: Programme accreditation** → All study programmes in operation went through an assessment/ accreditation process (around 1.000 programmes/year)
- **2017: Institutional Assessment** → “rounding up” of this programme accreditation process
 - Bringing the dimension of educational provision into perspective within the institutional dimension
 - Aiming at a global and comprehensive view of the Institution, covering:
 - The whole Institution
 - Each of its autonomous organisational units (Basic Organic Units)

Institutional Assessment

➤ **Overall objective of Institutional Assessment**

- **Support the improvement of quality in higher education**
- **Contribute to the development of institutional quality cultures within HEI.**
 - **Focus on quality enhancement**
- **Provide grounded information to society on the performance of HEI**

Institutional Assessment

➤ Specific objectives

- Review institutional policies and tools for strategic management and for self responsibility for the quality of activities and results.
- Assess the degree of fulfillment of the institutional mission (covering a number of parameters defined by law)
- Check compliance with legal requirements for the operation of HEI (e.g. the qualification of academic staff and their involvement in research activities).
- Identify basic organic units or subunits liable to a simplified accreditation process in the next round
- Update the A3ES's data base on higher education

Institutional Assessment

➤ Phases of the Institutional Assessment Process

- Self-assessment
- On-site visit by Review Team
- Assessment report (appraisal and recommendations)
- Management Board decision on accreditation and publicising the report

What after the 2012-2017 round?

- **Aware of concerns with programme accreditation!**
 - **Unquestionable added-value in the official recognition of qualifications!**
 - **But: Little added-value in repeating a round of programme accreditation**

- **Tendency towards less intrusive external QA**
 - **As HEIs become more responsible and transparent**
 - **To stimulate the emphasis on quality enhancement**

What after the 2012-2017 round?

- **Lighter touch** ⇒ “Risk-management” approach
 - **Conditions for a lighter-touch approach**
 - **Internal QA system certified by the Agency – *Trust label***
 - **Good performance in the assessment/accreditation round**
 - **Good performance indicators on**
 - **Qualifications of academic staff**
 - **R&D**
- ⇒ **Programme accreditation by sampling**