

# 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

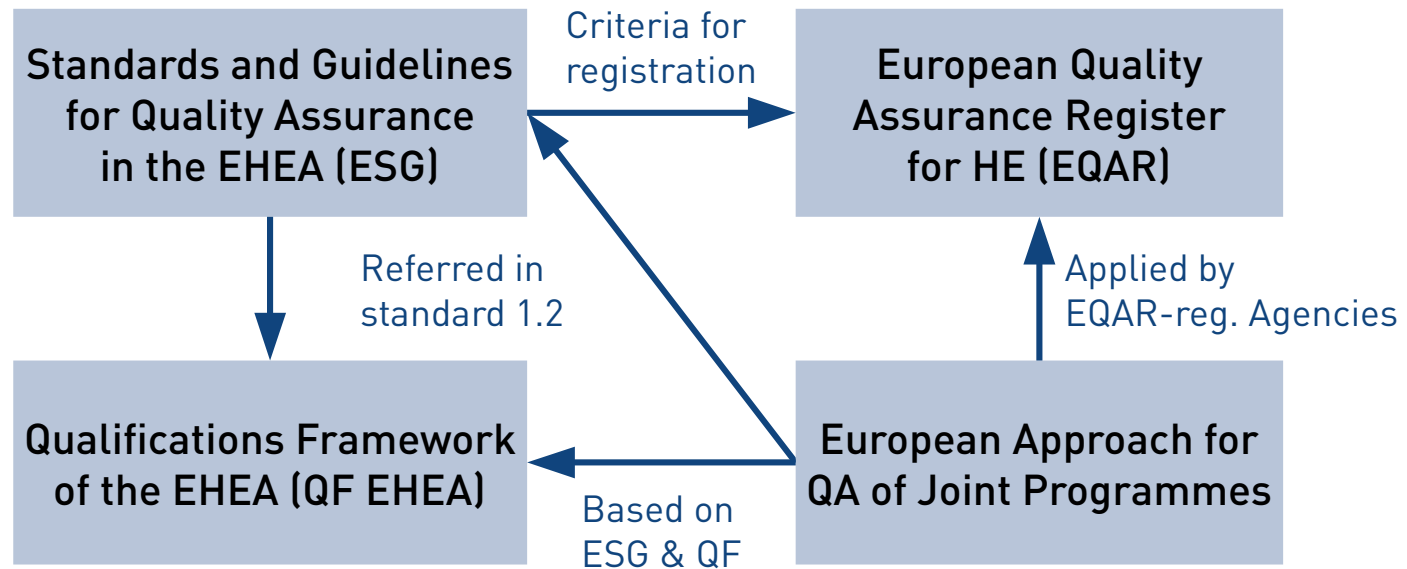


- Approaches and pilots for single reviews (e.g. JOQAR)
  - Working, but complex
- Need to accommodate different national criteria
  - Not always quality-related, but often structural
  - Sometimes contradictory (e.g. # of ECTS Master thesis)
  - Make sense nationally, but difficult to understand for 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)

# Application



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 require-  
ments 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



Before	After
Multiple, fragmented reviews	Single review
Combining various national rules and criteria	Agreed Standards, based on ESG & QF-EHEA
Complex procedures, ad hoc design	Agreed Procedure

- Governments: adapt legal frameworks
- QA agencies: pragmatic solutions in using it