

Impressionism: The JOQAR Approach

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european consortium for accreditation

JOQAR : essentials

- Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded (JOQAR)
- ECA+ project
 - ECA = European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education
- EU Erasmus Mundus Action 3 funding
- Nov. 2010 – Oct. 2013
- Overall aim:
to ensure that joint programmes are facilitated in two specific areas: accreditation and recognition

JOQAR : partners and structure

14 Project partners:

- **Quality Assurance Agencies:** NVAO, ÖAR, SQAA, AQAS, ANECA, OAQ, AQU Catalunya, FIBAA, NAAC, CNA
- **ENIC-NARICs:**
 - Danish Agency for International Education
 - UK NARIC
 - NUFFIC (NL)
 - Ministry of Science and Higher Education (PL)

Project groups: Steering Group, Recognition Group, Accreditation Group (ECA WG 1), Stakeholders Group

Lessons from TEAM² Project (2008-2010)

t|e|@|m|
e|c|a|

Joint programmes:
Too many cooks
in the kitchen?



e|c|a|

European consortium for accreditation

e|c|a|

European consortium for accreditation

JOQAR essentials: 2 action lines

1. Cross-border quality assurance of joint programmes
2. Recognition of degrees awarded by joint programmes
 - Awareness-raising among HEIs and joint programmes about ENIC-NARICs' expectations
 - ENIC-NARIC guidelines regarding the recognition of degrees awarded by joint programmes
 - Inclusion of Erasmus Mundus programmes on www.Qcrossroads.eu

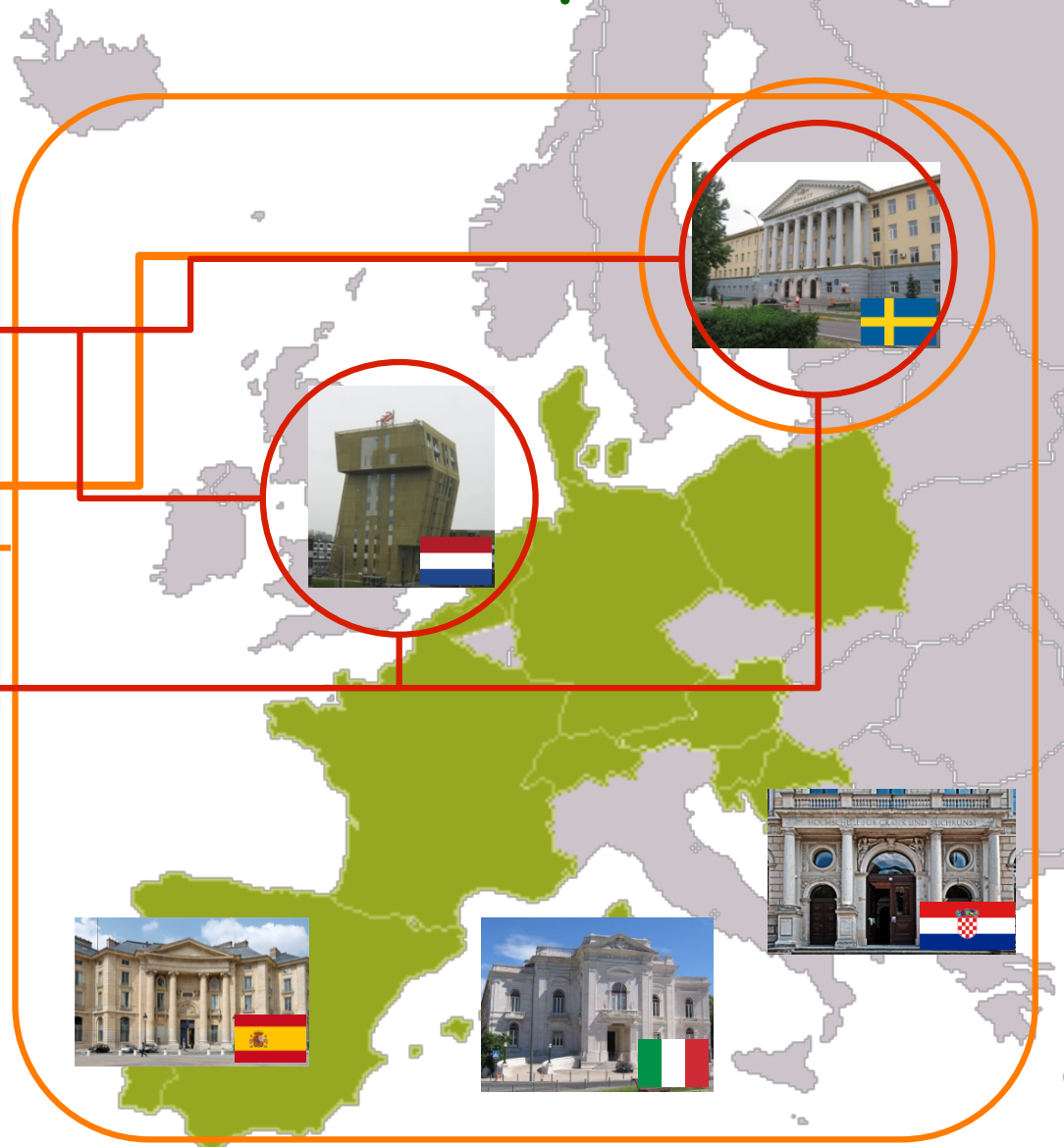
Recognition of joint programmes



Now: multiple national accreditation procedures

National procedure

- **Procedure by:**
 - Individual agency
- **Focus of procedure**
 - National offer
 - Whole joint programme
- **Result:**
 - National (accreditation)



JOQAR solutions for external QA

Multilateral Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Accreditation Results regarding Joint Programmes (MULTRA)

Coordination Point for Joint Programmes

Single Accreditation Procedures for Joint Programmes

ECApedia

The screenshot displays the ECAPedia website interface. At the top, the header reads "european consortium for accreditation". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "Portal", "Discussion", "Read", "View source", "View history", and a search box with "Go" and "Search" buttons. The main content area is titled "Portal: Joint programmes". It features a large green box with the "JP JOINT PROGRAMMES" logo and the title "The Joint Programmes Portal". Below the title, a paragraph defines a joint programme. A link "Click to refresh selections below" is present. The page is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Selected definition", contains a definition of accreditation and a list of bullet points. The right column, titled "Selected quote", contains a quote from Jane Knight. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Selected higher education system" with a definition for Austria. The footer of the website shows the "e | c | a |" logo and the text "european consortium for accreditation".

MULTRA



Multilateral Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Accreditation Results regarding Joint Programmes (MULTRA)

The signing accreditation organisations agree to apply the ECA principles for accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes;

and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisations when accrediting joint programmes

MULTRA

- Signing of MULTRA possible after external review of agency (against ESG/ECA Code/INQAAHE GGP) and observation of procedure
- Observation by 2 observers from MULTRA agencies:
 - Write observation report; for recommendation to ECA Management Group; decision by MULTRA agencies
- MULTRA signed by 10 agencies in Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands and Flanders, Poland, Spain
- PLUS: CNA (Colombia), AQAS (Germany)
- More agencies/countries planned

Evaluation of observations

- Evaluated by observed agencies and observers
- Positive results, support for methodology
- Adjustments in the observation report format for better comparisons non-European agencies
- More time for preparing observation, online platform
- Fluency in English of observers and, if possible, make sure that the observers understand the local language.
- Seminar of signatory agencies: experiences; extension MULTRA; reduce costs of observations; information on major system changes
- Support from governments for MULTRA

Coordination Point for Joint Programmes

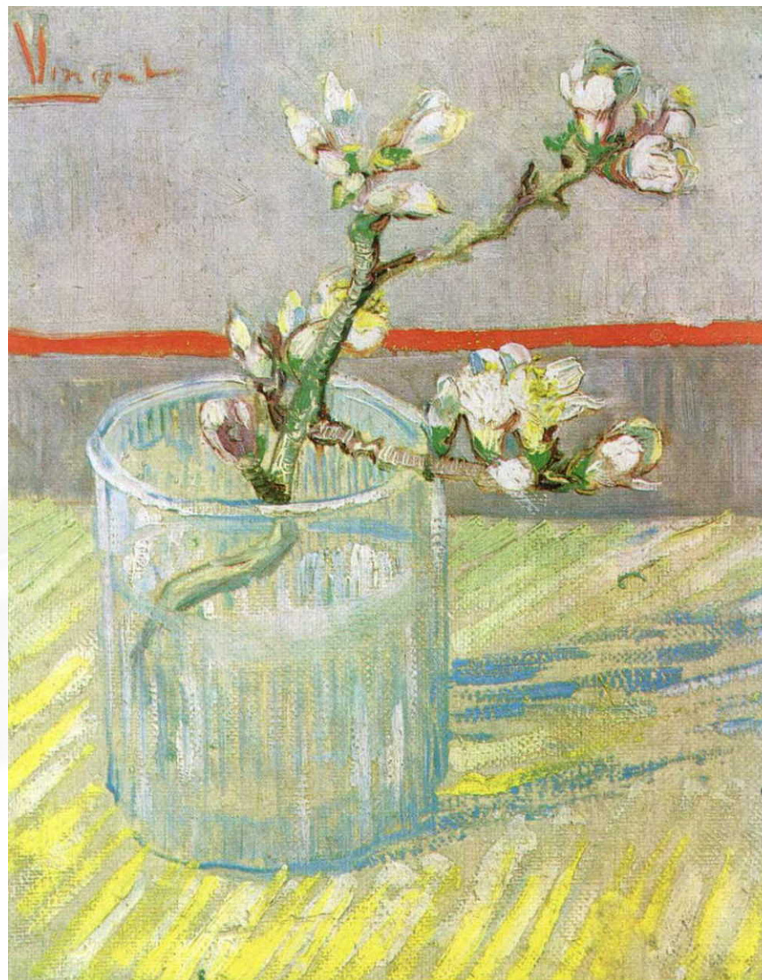


Coordination Point for Joint Programmes

Conclusions of feasibility study:

- There is a demand amongst both the joint programmes and the QA agencies for a coordination point regarding joint programmes
- Main focus of the coordination point should be **the provision of information and the coordination of single accreditation procedures**
- Bucharest Communiqué (2012): a European coordination mechanism for QA/accreditation of JPs should be established

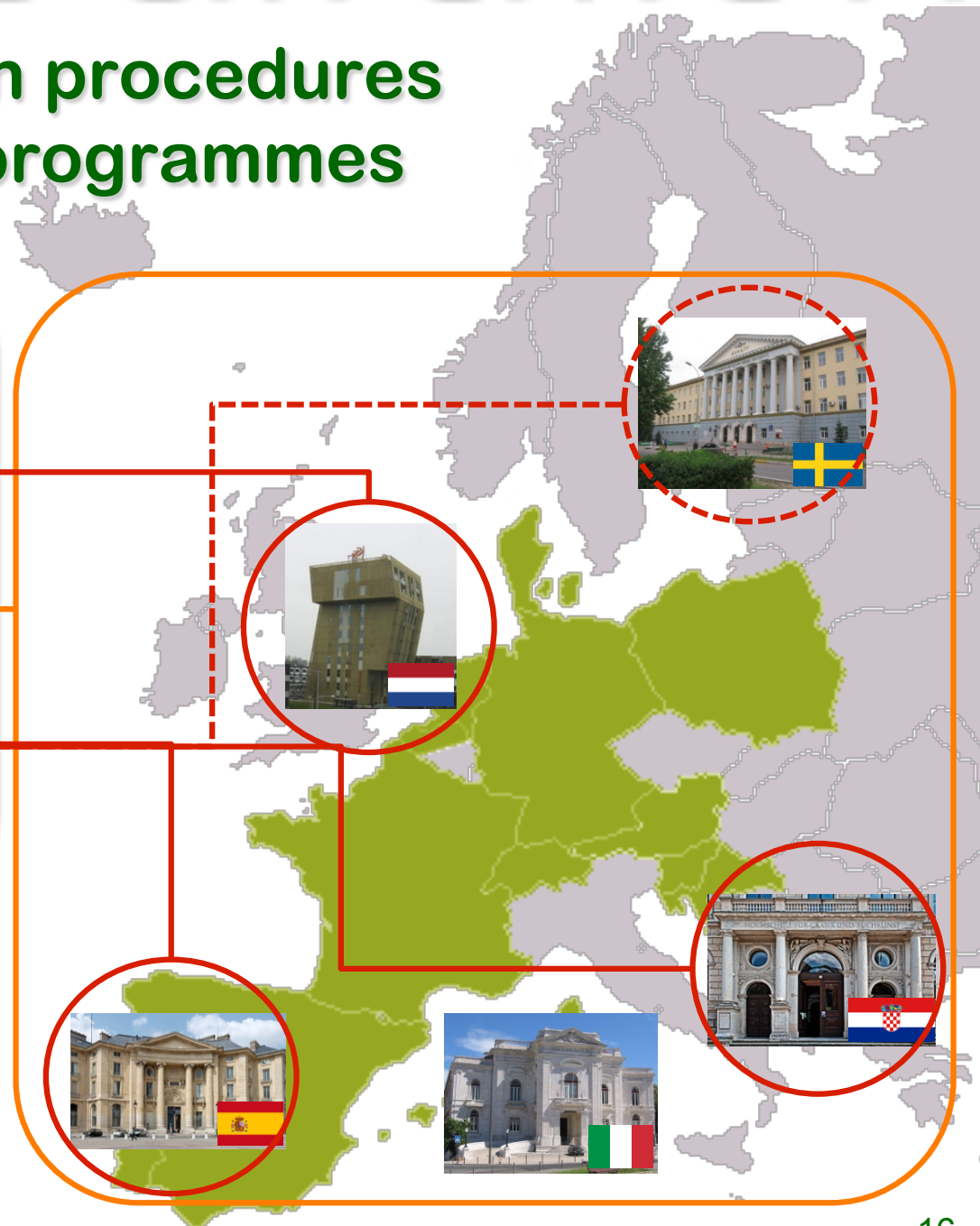
Single Accreditation Procedure



Single accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes

Single procedure

- Procedure by:
 - One agency
- Focus of procedure
 - Whole joint programme
- Result:
 - National (accreditations) in countries of JP consortium



Outline of single accreditation procedure

- 1 coordinating agency responsible for the procedure
- Agencies of other JP consortium countries can be involved:
 - Being informed on procedure and outcomes
 - Proposing additional national criteria
 - Proposing an expert for panel
 - Sending an observer to the site visit
- The **totality of the joint programme** is assessed
- 1 international panel; 1 site visit; 1 report
- Preparatory meeting held with agencies and coordinators JPs; 2 workshops with panels

Pilot procedures – 4 EM joint Master programmes

1. European Master in Quality in Analytical Laboratories (EMQAL)

- University of Algarve , **Portugal**
- University of Barcelona, **Spain**
- University of Bergen, **Norway**
- University of Cadiz, **Spain**
- Gdansk University of Technology, **Poland**
- Central South University, **China**

Coordinating agency: AQU Catalunya (Spain)

Pilot procedures – 4 EM joint Master programmes

2. Erasmus Mundus Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (EMBC)

- Ghent University (**Belgium**)
- University of Bremen (**Germany**)
- University of the Algarve (**Portugal**)
- University of Pierre and Marie Curie - Paris 6 (**France**)
- University of Oviedo (**Spain**)
- University of Klaipeda (**Lithuania**)

Coordinating agency: AQAS (Germany)

Pilot procedures – 4 EM joint Master programmes

3. European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR)

- University of Oldenburg, **Germany**
- Ahfad University for Women, Omdurman, **Sudan**
- Makerere University Kampala, **Uganda**
- Mbarara University of Science & Technology, **Uganda**
- University of Nova Gorica, **Slovenia**
- University of South Bohemia, **Czech Republic**
- University of Stavanger, **Norway**

Coordinating agency: SQAA (Slovenia)

Pilot procedures – 4 EM joint Master programmes

4. Erasmus Mundus Master Course in Law and Economics (EMLE)

- Erasmus University Rotterdam, **The Netherlands**
- University of Gent, **Belgium**
- Hamburg University, **Germany**
- University Paul Cezanne, Aix/Marseille 3, **France**
- University of Bologna, **Italy**
- University of Vienna, **Austria**
- Haifa University, **Israel**
- Warsaw School of Economics, **Poland**
- Indira Ghandi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, **India**

Coordinating agency: NVAO (Netherlands and Flanders)

Pilot procedures: assessment framework

Shared European component

- Criteria and procedure agreed by coordinating/JOQAR agencies

(Additional national components)

- Necessary (legal) criteria and procedural aspects added by other involved agencies

Decision

- By coordinating agency
- Accepted by involved agencies

Assessment standards and criteria (1/3)

1. General conditions

- *Criterion 1a:* Recognition
- *Criterion 1b:* Cooperation agreement
- *Criterion 1c:* Added value

2. Intended learning outcomes

- *Criterion 2a:* Shared
- *Criterion 2b:* Level
- *Criterion 2c:* Subject/discipline

Assessment standards and criteria (2/3)

3. Programme

- *Criterion 3a:* Admission
- *Criterion 3b:* Structure
- *Criterion 3c:* Credits

4. Internal quality assurance

- *Criterion 4a:* Common understanding
- *Criterion 4b:* Stakeholder involvement
- *Criterion 4c:* Continuous improvement

Assessment criteria (3/3)

5. Facilities and student support

- *Criterion 5a:* Facilities
- *Criterion 5b:* Support
- *Criterion 5c:* Services

6. Teaching and learning

- *Criterion 6a:* Staff
- *Criterion 6b:* Assessment of students
- *Criterion 6c:* Achievement

(7. Additional national criteria)

Additional national components problematic

Too many national criteria and national requirements in external QA/accreditation of joint programmes

- Sometimes not about quality
- Not suited for joint programmes
- Contradict each other

Very long list of examples:

- The assessment report (expert report) is required to be in the national language;
- National QA agencies which are not allowed to coordinate an international procedure / undertake a site visit abroad;
- Master thesis:
“max. 30 ECTS credits” vs. “at least 35% of the total number of credits”;
- ...

Outcomes evaluation of pilots

- Evaluated by the joint programme coordinators, experts, coordinating agencies and Working Group 1 of ECA
- Several decisions taken but decision-making phase still going on; final report in September
- European criteria viewed positively
- Remove additional national criteria for JPs
- Role of Coordination Point should be strengthened
- Pool of trained experts for single procedures of JPs
- European appeals procedure/committee
- Harmonise different accreditation periods for JPs

MULTRA + Single procedures without national components: the way forward?



Joint programmes are the stars!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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