EU commission's progress reports on QA

Response from ECA

R. Heusser, ECA workshop Porto, 18 June 2014

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Setting the stage:

1. European QA: achievements/risks
2. ECA and selected projects
3. EU commission's agenda and ECA
4. Look into the future

Edgar Degas
Zwei Tänzerinnen
Die Sammlung Batliner, Michael Imhof Verlag,
Albertina, Wien 2007

European QA - Achievements

- Quality imperative has pervaded HE systems in Europe
- External QA systems have been established in all countries, various QA networks have been set up
- Internal QA systems at HEI‘s have been built up, strengthening the institutional leadership role in quality
- Studies show positive impact of QA on educational provisions

European QA - Risks

- Limited connection between QA and recognition tools
- Limited focus on benefit for HE stakeholders/outcomes
- Limited focus on innovation and new developments in HE; QA systems are often trapped in formalism
- Still too many national idiosyncrasies, endangering mutual recognition of qualifications accross borders

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WORKS

ECA: Foundation and Aim

- Established as a project network in November 2003; turned into an association on April 2014
- Consortium of 16 national accreditation/QA agencies; all regions involved
- Aims: promote mutual recognition of accreditation decisions, enhance transparency in EHEA and support internationalisation of institutions and students

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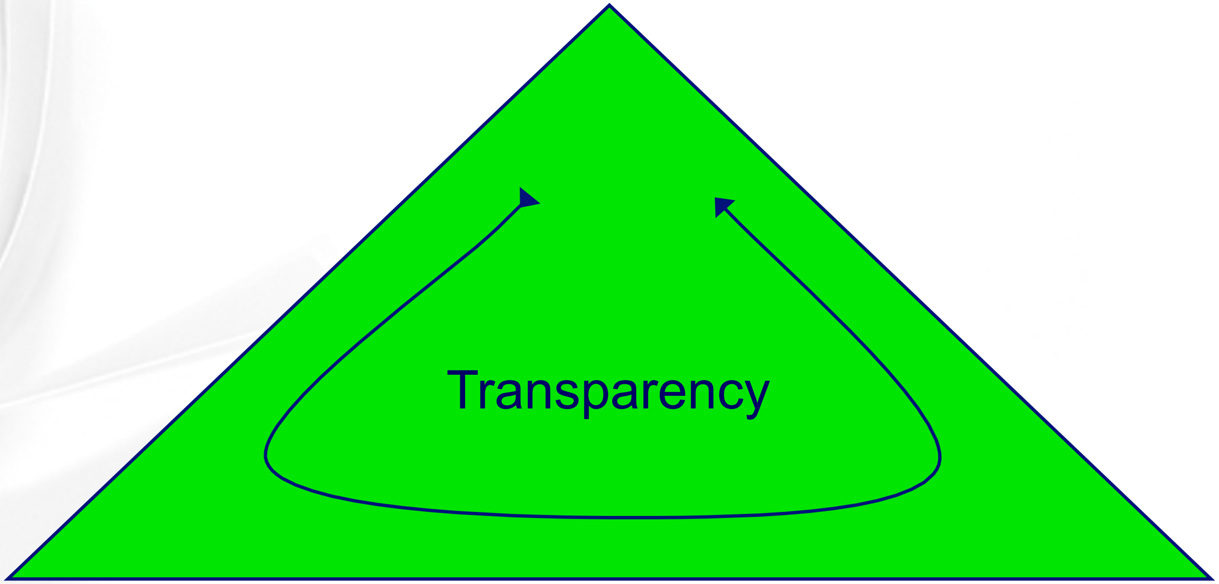
Mutual recognition initiative of ECA

Use of accreditation results for recognition



Recognition decisions

Transparency

Accreditation/QA decisions

LO – Assessment Qualification frames

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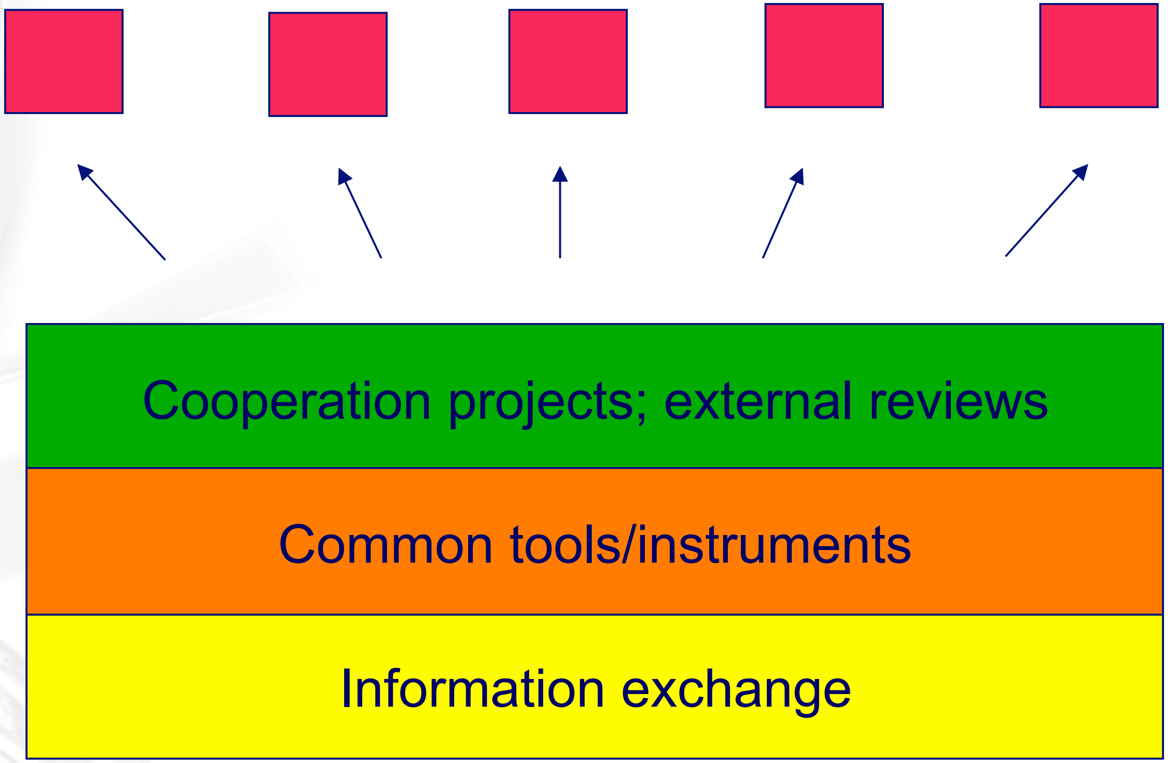
ECA – Trust building process

Mutual Recognition Agreements
Bilateral and multinatioal



Cooperation projects; external reviews

Common tools/instruments

Information exchange

Models of transborder academic recognition

Case by case recognition
↓
ECTS, Diploma Supplement
↓
Model 1

Recognition based on QA-Evidence
↓
MR initiatives
↓
Model 2

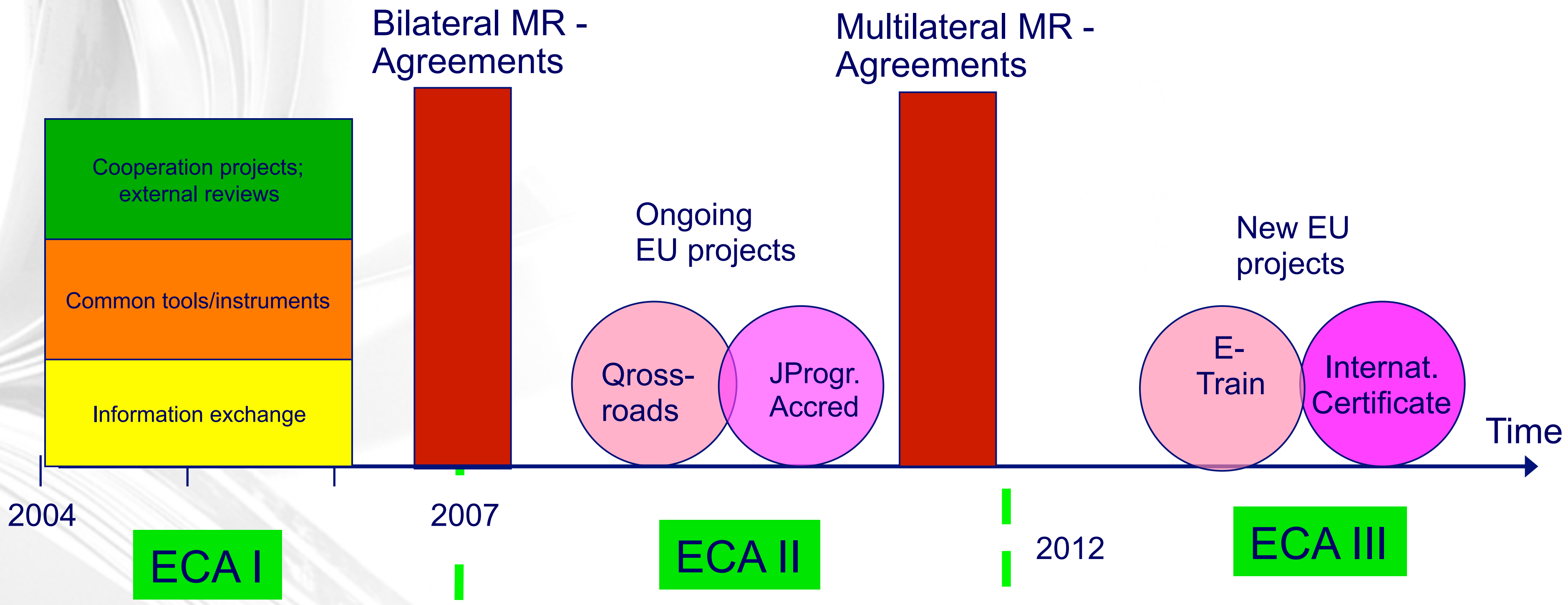
Automatic recognition
↓
Political decision
↓
Model 3

FL) and ANECA (Spain)
nvao
nederlands - vlaamse accreditatieorganisatie
ANECA

Let‘s the dance continue

Edgar Degas
Zwei Tänzerinnen
Die Sammlung Batliner,
Michael Imhof Verlag,
Albertina, Wien 2007

The ECA Project – Three Phases (2003- 2013)



Bilateral MR - Agreements

Multilateral MR - Agreements

Cooperation projects; external reviews

Common tools/instruments

Information exchange

Ongoing EU projects

Qross-roads

JProgr. Accred

New EU projects

E-Train

Internat. Certificate

Time

2004

2007

2012

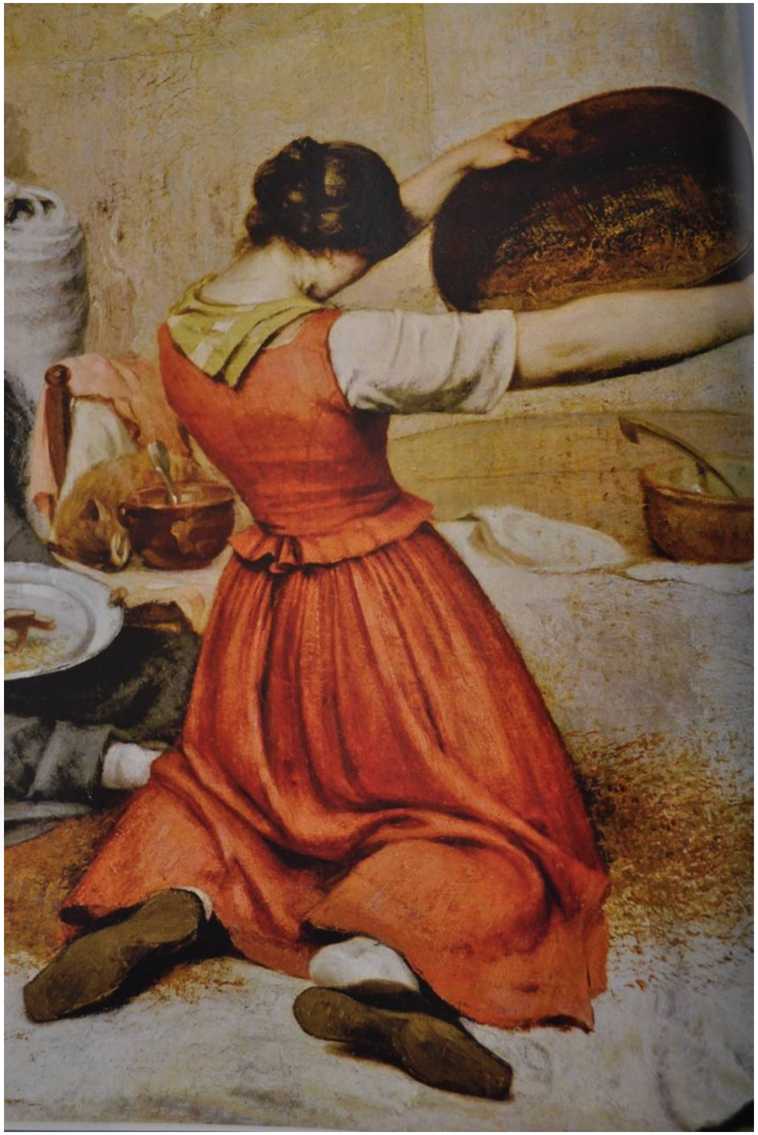
ECA I

ECA II

ECA III

Joint programmes

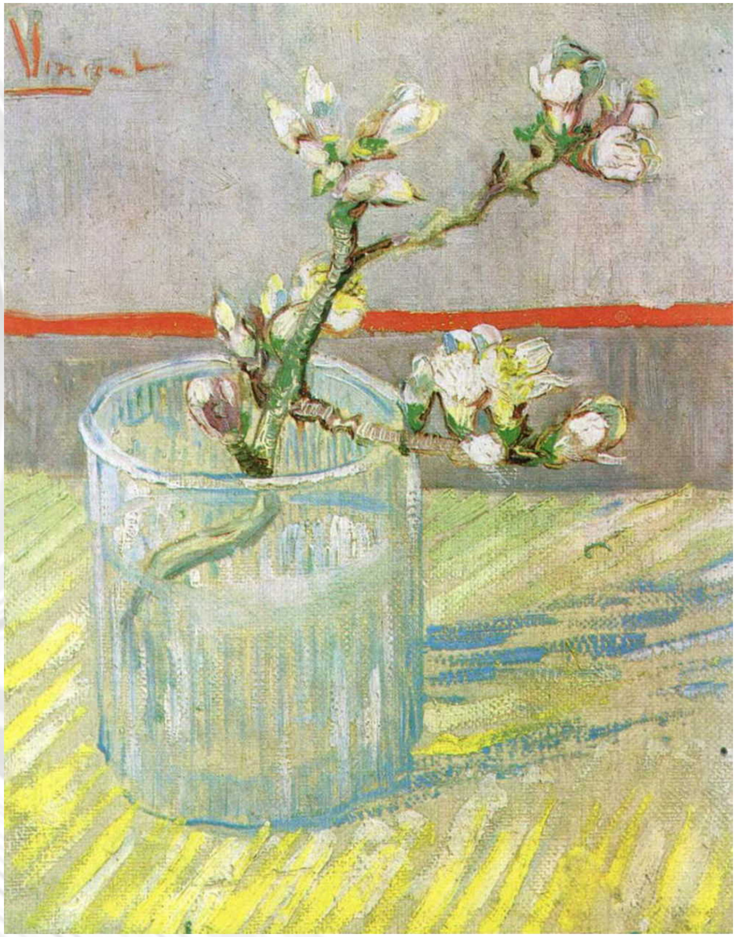
Obstacles in
-organization
-recognition
-accreditation



Realism

Gustave Courbet
Les Cribleuses de blé
(detail).rmn,
ADAGP, 2007

ECA solution: Single Accreditation Procedure



Based on mutual trust/MRA‘s:

One coordinating QAA
One assessment framework
One international panel
One on site visit
One report
Multiple but same decisions

ECA Available Reports

Joint programmes:
Too many cooks
in the kitchen?

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How to assess
and accredit joint
programmes in Europe

Excellent
Good
Average
Poor

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The recognition of
qualifications awarded
by joint programmes

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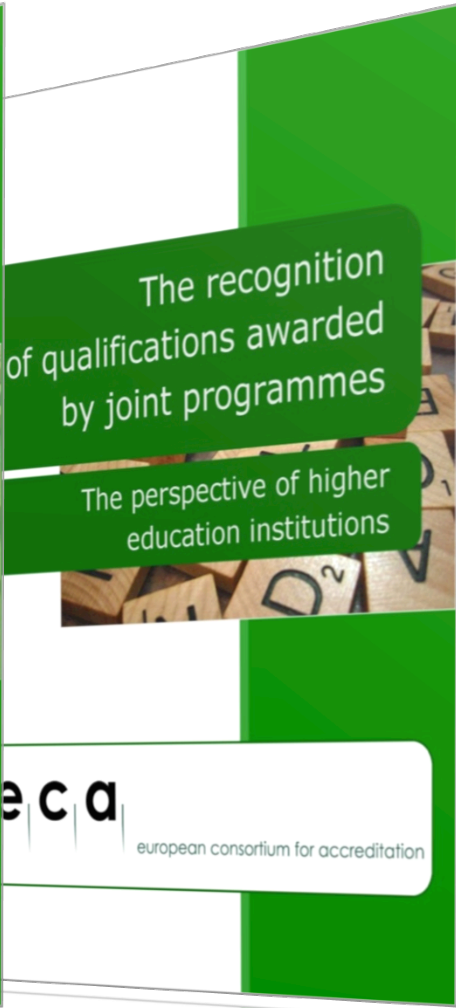
The recognition
of qualifications awarded
by joint programmes

The perspective of higher
education institutions

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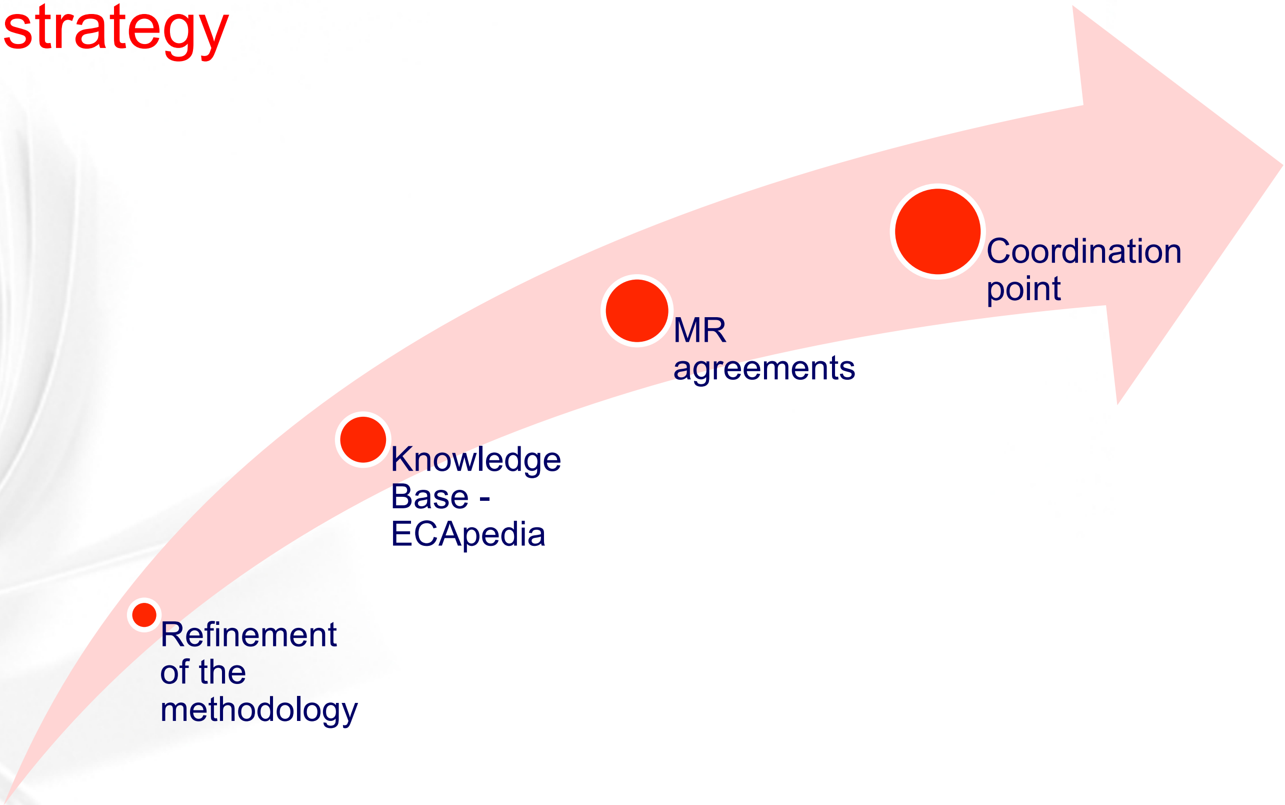
New ways of accrediting JPs

ECA strategy



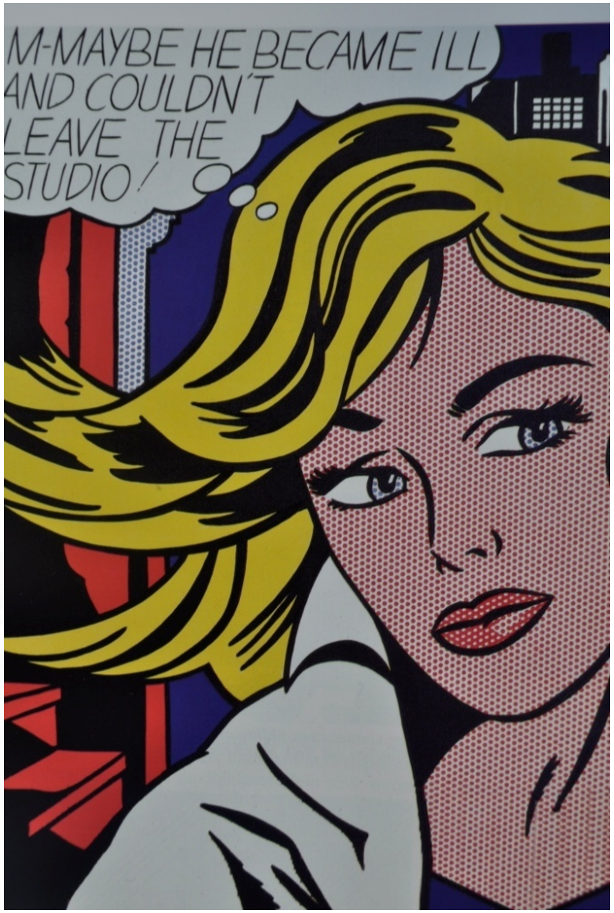
Refinement of the methodology

Knowledge Base - ECApedia

MR agreements

Coordination point

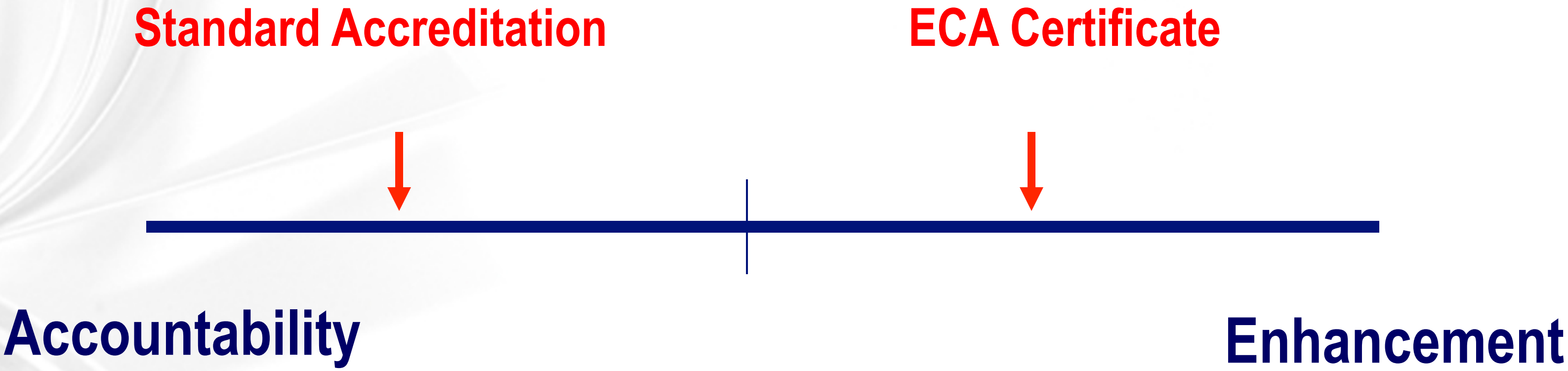
CeQuInt Project:
European certificate for good/excellent performances in Internationalisation


M-MAYBE HE BECAME ILL AND COULDN'T LEAVE THE STUDIO!

Pop-Art

Roy Lichtenstein
M-Maybe (A Girl's Picture
Stadt Köln – Museum Ludwig
1986

Orientation of CeQuInt - Project



Standard Accreditation

ECA Certificate

Accountability

Enhancement

Timetable of CeQuInt project/ECA certificate

2013	Assessment framework, Guidelines for HEIs, Appeals system, Training for experts (CeQuInt)
2014	CeQuint procedures, supplemented with first procedures on „service basis“
2015	Dissemination of results of CeQuInt project (newsletter, conferences, knowledge base, good practice database, etc.)

Relevance of ECA certificate in Internationalisation

- For HEI‘s: Benchmarking against good practices, brings internationalisation of curriculum to new quality level, attracts new students and staff, opens new funding channels
- For students/employers: guarantees that students has achieved high international and intercultural competences; enhances student mobility
- For society: increases transparency in internationalisation, promotes European goals

EU Commission‘s agenda (2009) and ECA‘s response

Transborder activites of QAA’s → **MR agreements (bilateral, MULTRA)**

Facilitate QA of JP’s → **JOQAR: single accreditation procedure for JP‘s**

QA labels, creation of transparency tools → **CeQuInt: ECA certificate for internationalisation**

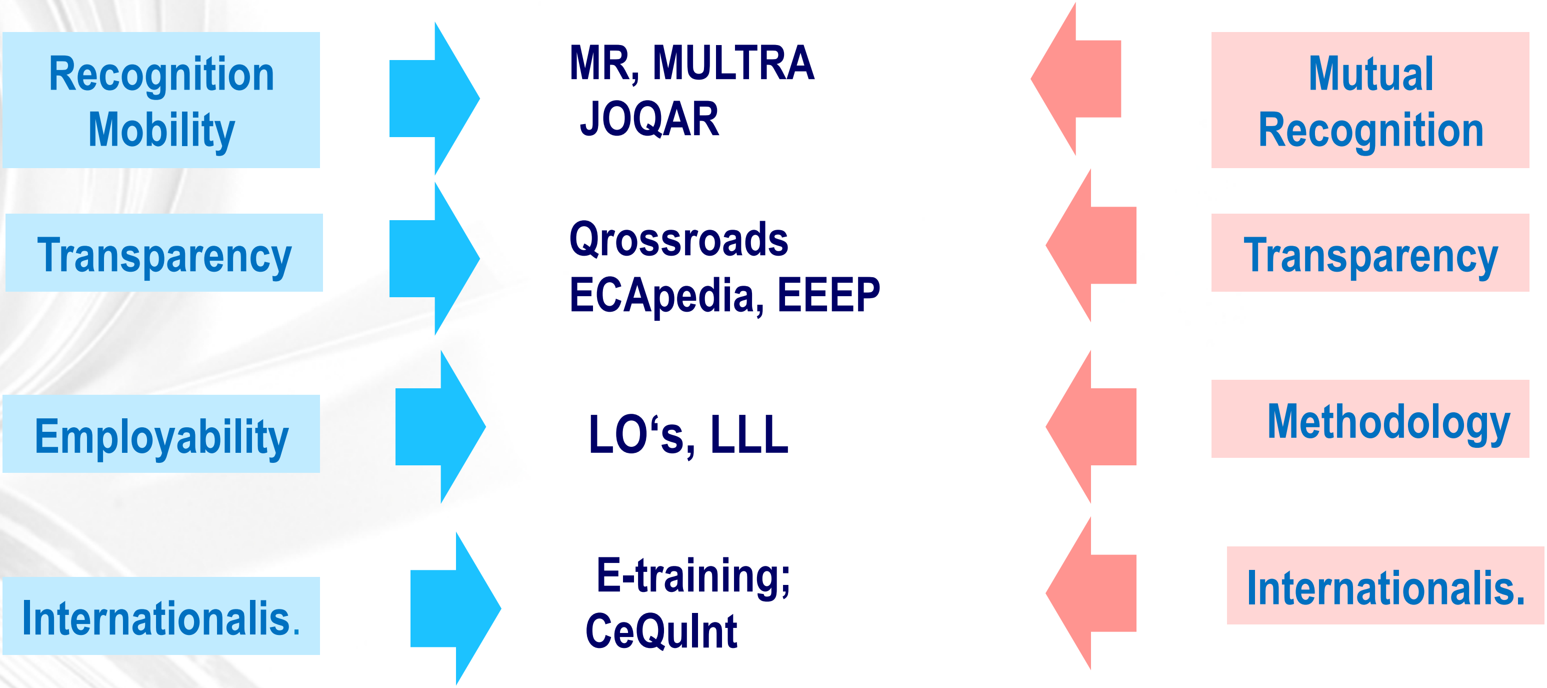
International cooperation of QAAs → **MOCs/MR agreements with Latinamerica/Asia**

Strong focus on benefit of QA users → **ECA on-line services, ECA procedures**

What will the future bring ?

Pablo Picasso
Femme à l‘oiseau.
2011 ProLitteris,
Zürich.

ECA activities – Political fundament and goals



EU Commission		ECA Goals
Recognition Mobility →	MR, MULTRA JOQAR	← Mutual Recognition
Transparency →	Qrossroads ECApedia, EEEP	← Transparency
Employability →	LO's, LLL	← Methodology
Internationalis. →	E-training; CeQuInt	← Internationalis.

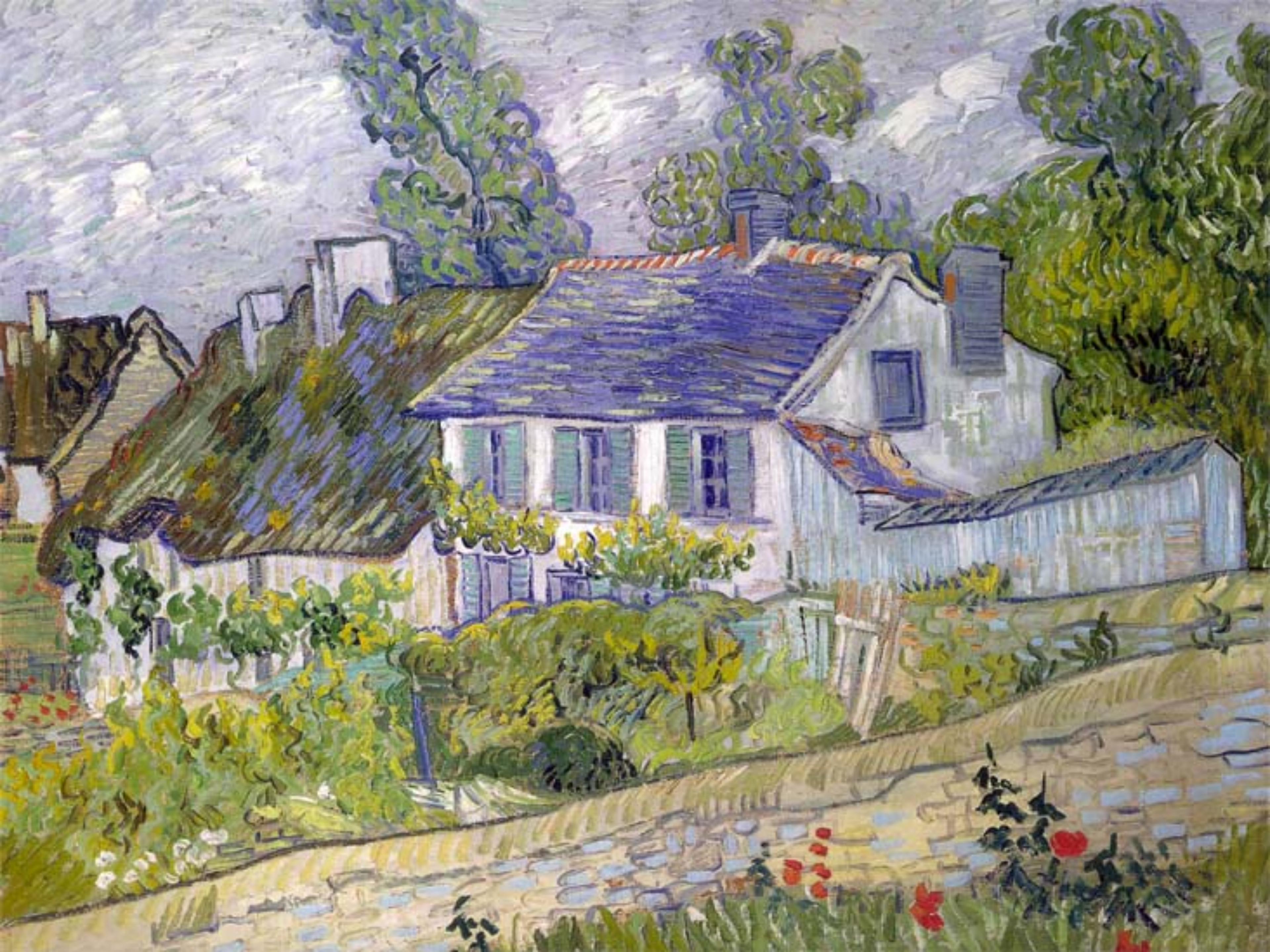
Future scenarios for Universities and HE

- Internationalisation of education will continue
- New providers and new emerging institutions
- New forms of education (DL, MOOCS, etc.)
- Increased activities in Life long learning
- Important role in transfer of knowledge/innovation to society
- Increasing autonomy of HEIs

Heusser, 2014

Requirements for future work of QA-agencies

Requirements for healthy QA-agencies :

- They are living systems
- They need capacity for dynamic change
- They need to have self-regulatory power and means to maintain and develop their organisation
- They have to exchange with environment