



The European Consortium for
Accreditation in Higher Education

TRAINING: EUROPEAN APPROACH FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF JOINT PROGRAMMES

6-7 MAY 2024

HOST & LOCATION of the VENUE

AQAS, Agency for Quality Assurance
Hohenstaufenring 30–32
50674 Cologne
Germany

The **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes** is becoming the go-to method for ensuring cross border study programmes in Europe as more joint programmes emerge through the **Erasmus Mundus** and the **European Universities Alliances initiatives** and a shift towards internationalisation of study programmes in general. However, **assessing joint programmes** requires careful consideration of their unique features with which self-accrediting higher education institutions and HEI under programme accreditation seems to struggle. This includes factors like the roles within consortia, how teaching and learning are coordinated, converting grades across different countries, comparable quality assurance frameworks, and ensuring consistent learning outcomes across various locations. Additional challenges might arise due to the fact that different countries may have varying approaches and legal requirements for assessing joint programmes. As a key partner in the implementation of the European Approach, the **European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA)** as well as the trainers' accreditation agencies **AQAS** and **Unibasq** can rely on a wide range of experiences in different consortium constellations.

The training will primarily concentrate on the specifics of the European Approach, while also considering the national systems that shape the context in which quality assurance decisions are made within Higher Education Institutions offering joint programmes. Participants will be effectively equipped with an in-depth background knowledge of the EA, and the ability to interpret and substantiate the assessment criteria. Furthermore, practical insights will allow participants to understand (the use of) standards and underlying substantiations.

Target audience

The training is tailored for quality assurance staff and programme heads affiliated with the Erasmus Mundus, European Universities Alliances and/or from higher education institutions with or without self-accrediting right, who are responsible for preparing self-evaluation reports for assessment under the European Approach for Quality Assurance (QA) of joint programmes.

Level

Medium. The training is appropriate for people with first experience in joint programmes, although some background experience in quality assurance is desirable.

The entire training will be given in English.



Learning outcomes

After actively taking part in this training, participants will:

1. Be able to understand the different types of joint programmes, the national and international context of joint programmes, national and European approaches and legislative frameworks;
2. Have the ability to prepare/assess the key components for the assessment of joint programmes;
3. Have a deeper understanding of the standards of the European Approach and knowledge about how to apply these.

Draft schedule

1. Introductions, needs and objectives
2. What you need to know about joint programmes
3. First things first - How to start a European Approach procedure?
4. The procedure according to the European Approach
5. Specific aspects in the European Approach standards. Good practices and possible hurdles focusing on:
 - a. The self-evaluation report
 - b. The panel
 - c. Site visit
 - d. Outcomes (Reporting)
6. Wrap-up

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MONDAY, 6 MAY 2024

	12.00 – 17.30
12:00 – 13:00	Registration and light lunch
13:00 – 15:30	Part 1: <i>Introduction – Context - Procedure</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:30	Part 2: <i>European Approach Standards</i>
19.00	Dinner



TUESDAY, 7 MAY 2024

9.30 – 14.00

9.30 – 11.15

Part 3: *Work in small groups: Hands on the European Approach - specific aspects*

11.15 – 11.30

Break

11.30 – 13.30
discussion and wrap-up

Part 4: *Presentation of the findings of each of the groups –*

13.30

Light lunch and farewell