The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education

TRAINING: EUROPEAN APPROACH FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF JOINT PROGRAMMES

2-3 December 2026

VENUE

HOTEL INTERNATIONAL, Miramarska 24, Zagreb, 10000, Croatia

In collaboration with:

ASHE- Agency for Science and Higher Education

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. *It will also provide a brief introduction to the European Degree Label, focusing on its relationship with the European Approach and the additional criteria relevant to joint programmes interested in obtaining the label.* Participants will acquire in-depth background knowledge of the European Approach and develop their ability to interpret and substantiate its assessment criteria. Furthermore, practical insights will enable participants to understand different ways of applying the standards and substantiating assessment findings.

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 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. Good practices and challenges focusing on:
    a. The self-evaluation report
    b. The panel
    c. Site visit
    d. Outcomes (Reporting)
5. Specific aspects in the European Approach standards. Good practices and possible hurdles focusing on:
    a. Joint design and jointness
    b. Learning outcomes
    c. Student support
    d. Quality assurance
6. Wrap-up

PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2026

12.00 – 17.30

12:00 – 13:00	Registration and light lunch
13.00 – 15.30	Part 1: Introduction – Context - Definitions
15.30 – 16.00	Break
16.00 – 17.30	Part 2: European Approach Procedure

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THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2026

9.00 – 12.30

9.00 – 10.30	Part 3: Work in small groups: The EA Standards
10.30 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 12.30	Part 4: Good Practice & The European Degree Label
12.30	Light lunch and farewell