Overview of the EUniQ project

Developing a European Approach for Comprehensive QA of (European) University Networks (EUniQ)

- Erasmus+ – Key Action 3 – Support to the Implementation of EHEA reforms

- EU grant 195.270€

- 18 May 2019 – 17 May 2021

- https://www.nvao.net/nl/euniq

Project objectives

- To develop a ==European Framework== for ==Comprehensive QA== of ==European Universities==
  - from analysis of needs and national legislation
  - to a QA framework and pilot evaluations
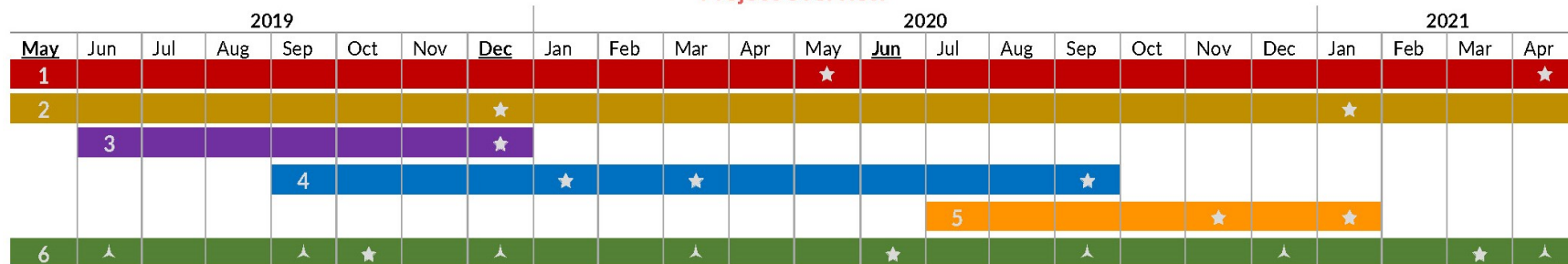 - resulting in a developed QA approach

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Partner Organisation, Country, Role in project
1 Flemish Community, Belgium, Applicant, Chair of Resonance Group, Ministry
2 NVAO, Netherlands/Flanders, Affiliated entity, QA agency, Chair Roadmap G
3 Ministry of Education and Sport ,Albania, Resonance Group, Ministry
4 Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgaria, Resonance Group, Ministry
5 Hcerés (representing Ministry), France, Resonance Group, Ministry
6 Ministry of Education and Science, Georgia, Resonance Group, Ministry
7 Ministry of Education, Romania, Resonance Group, Ministry
8 ANQA, Armenia, Roadmap Group, QA agency
9 AAQ, Switzerland, Roadmap Group, QA agency
10 NAKVIS, Slovenia, Roadmap Group, QA agency
11 AIC, Latvia, Roadmap Group, QA agency
12 UKÄ, Sweden, Roadmap Group, QA agency
13 NEAQA, Serbia, Roadmap Group, QA agency
14 ANVUR, Italy, Roadmap Group, QA agency
15 EUA, Belgium, Roadmap Group, Stakeholder organisation
16 ENQA, Belgium, Roadmap Group, Stakeholder organisation
17 ESU, Belgium, Roadmap Group, Stakeholder organisation

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Project benefits

- European Framework for Comprehensive QA of European Universities:
  - will help alliances to both define and self-assess their quality
  - will open up a dialogue between QA agencies and European Universities; enabling the assessment of European Universities in an appropriate way
  - Assisting stakeholders perspectives based on facts
  - Facilitates QA peer support across the EHEA

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Project overview

	2019							2020												2021			
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr

Timeline (action lines):

- **1.** Roadmap Group — spans May 2019 to Apr 2021; ★ at May 2020 and Apr 2021
- **2.** Resonance Group — spans May 2019 to Jan 2021; ★ at Dec 2019 and Jan 2021
- **3.** (purple) — spans Jun 2019 to Dec 2019; ★ at Dec 2019
- **4.** (blue) — spans Sep 2019 to Sep 2020; ★ at Feb 2020, Mar 2020, Sep 2020
- **5.** (orange) — spans Sep 2020 to Jan 2021; ★ at Nov 2020 and Jan 2021
- **6.** (green) — spans May 2019 to Apr 2021; newsletter markers and ★ at Oct 2019, Dec 2019, Mar 2020, Jun 2020, Sep 2020, Jan 2021, Mar 2021, Apr 2021

Action line	Relevant partners		Objective	Deliverable
1. Roadmap Group	Lead partner: Other partners:	NVAO QA agencies ENQA, ESU, EUA	To generally manage the project, the attainment of the schedule and the production of deliverables.	**Progress report** (May 2020) - Report on results & development of deliverables **Final report** (April 2021) - Report on realisations & achieved outcomes
2. Resonance Group	Lead partner: Other partners:	Flanders Ministries	To guide, monitor and evaluate the work of the Roadmap Group, to reflect on methodologies and pertinent legal issues, to involve other stakeholders.	**Analysis of the proposed methodology** (Dec. 2019) - Analysis, feedback and ways forward **European Universities, legal frameworks and the ESG** (Jan. 2021)
3. Methodological development	Partners:	All partners	To develop a draft assessment methodology for (European) University Networks.	**Pilot assessment framework** (Dec. 2019) - what will be assessed, how will this be organised and which information will be used.
4. Pilot procedures	Partners:	QA agencies	To pilot the developed draft assessment methodology.	**Training day for experts and networks** (Jan. 2020) **Panel report template** (Feb. 2020) **Assessment reports** (Sep. 2020)
5. Enhancement & valorisation	Partners:	All partners	To convert the lessons learnt into a development roadmap for QA and the piloted methodology into a final methodology.	**QA Development Roadmap** (Nov. 2020) **European Approach for Comprehensive QA of (European) University Networks** (Jan. 2021)
6. Peer Support	Partners:	All partners	To maintain the focus on peer support, to reach out to all the stakeholders	**Project website** (May 2019) ⊼ **Peer Support newsletter** (Jun., Sep., Dec. 2019; Mar., Sep., Dec. 2020; Apr. 2021) **Peer Support & Kick-off Event** (Oct. 2019) **Peer Support & Feedback Event** (May 2020) **Peer Support & Dissemination Event** (Mar. 2021)

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Next steps

- Framework for the pilots and selection of experts (Jan-Feb 2020)
- Analysis of proposed methodology (Jan 2020)
- Workshop for panel experts and agency coordinators (11 March 2020)
- Pilots with 4 alliances to test the framework; evaluation pilots (May-August 2020)
- Results pilots and evaluation (Riga, 7-8 Sept 2020)
- QA Development Roadmap (Nov 2020)
- Analysis of legal issues & ESG (Jan 2021)
- Finalised European Framework (Jan 2021)
- Dissemination conference (Brussels, spring 2021)

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Survey results: strategy and joint provision

- 16 out of 17 alliances responded to questionnaire

- Wide diversity in strategic priorities but also commonalities: European values/identity, challenge-driven, flexible learning, tailor-made curricula, virtual/blended mobility, e-learning/platforms, social/regional engagement, participative governance, inclusiveness, bridging education/research/business, enhancing joint research, inter/multidisplinary, language skills, intercultural competences

- Some alliances mention explicitly the joint provision they want to develop (e.g. specific joint progammes) and virtual is a common theme (also needed to achieve 50% mobility)

- Joint provision is also influenced by flexibility (e.g. "personalised academic curricula"), (regional) networking and involving local commumity

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Survey results: internal and external QA

- Different elements of external QA for the alliances:
  - national QA agencies and procedures
  - EACEA evaluations of the project
  - international advisory boards consisting of external experts that are set up as part of the internal QA arrangements.

- Alignment between internal and external QA is emphasised

- Lean, trust-based and enhancement-led approach advocated

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Survey results: obstacles

- National education laws
- Accreditation system and regulations not harmonised among partner countries.
- Differences in the rules, approaches and timescales of national agencies.
- Obstacles for setting up multiple or joint diplomas.
- Differences in the autonomy of universities in each national context.
- "We have chosen an appreciative approach, but for our partners operating in a completely different external QA system, this could entail a difficult balance."

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Methodological caveats

- Pilot phase -> ex ante evaluation
  - What can the alliances already demonstrate?
  - What can we deliver as a final assessment framework?
- Starting point for framework
  - Framework has to accommodate wide diversity in strategies and policies of European Universities
  - Descriptive, flexible, open
    - Not: prescriptive, rigid, focused on indicators & checking
  - Enhancement focus: helping the development of the internal QA of European Universities

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Evaluation questions

- What is the European University's vision on the quality of its education and, where possible, the links to research, innovation and service to society?

- How will the European University realise its vision?

- How does the European University monitor to what extent its vision is actually realised?

- How is the European University working on improvement?

- How is the quality of the European University's provision assured in an internationally accepted manner (~ESG)?

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Four criteria (with each 4 reference points)

- Strategy and policies

- Policy implementation

- Evaluation and monitoring

- Improvement policy

Evaluation procedure

- Information provided to the panel

- Composition of the evaluation panel

- Site visit

- Evaluation report

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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EUniQ

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