

The European Approach – where do we stand 1,5 years after Yerevan?

BFUG WG2 – Implementation – Session on Internationalisation of QA

Nice, 8 November 2016

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Background

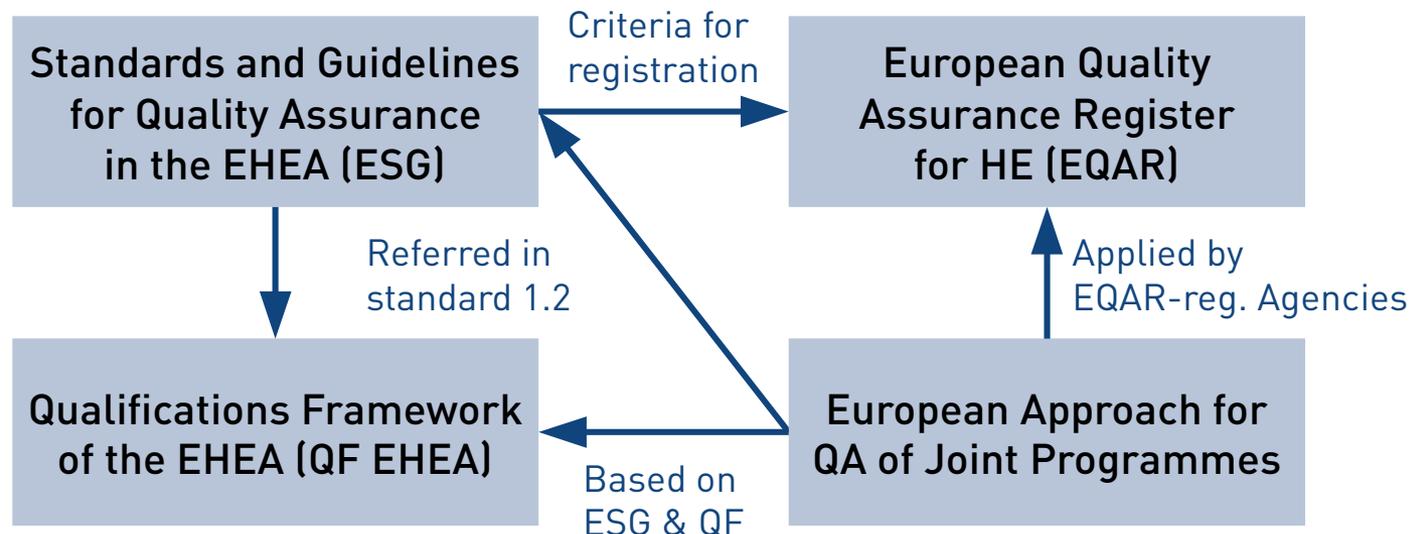


- Approaches and pilots for single reviews (e.g. JOQAR)
 - Working, but complex
- Need to accommodate different national criteria
 - Not always quality-related, but often structural
 - Sometimes contradictory (e.g. # of ECTS Master thesis)
 - Make sense nationally, but difficult to understand for foreign peers
- Consequence: “fragmented” external QA a common solution
- Aim
 - Ease accreditation of joint programmes
 - Enable single reviews, reflect the joint character also in QA

Approach



- **The idea:** agreed and consistent European framework
 - Standards for quality assurance of joint programmes
 - Procedure for quality assurance of joint programmes
- No additional national criteria
- Adopted by EHEA ministers in Yerevan (May 2015)



Application



European Approach, based on ESG & QF-EHEA, and Bucharest Communiqué
("recognise QA decisions of EQAR-registered agencies on joint and double degree programmes")

Cooperating HEIs
need **programme
accreditation/eval.**

Single accreditation/eval.
of JP, based on agreed
Standards & Procedure,
by any EQAR-reg. agency

Cooperating HEIs are "self-accrediting"
for programmes, i.e. accredited/
evaluated/audited at institutional level

Joint internal QA review
of the JP (in line with ESG), may use
agreed Standards, external
review takes account of HEIs' internal

**Recognised to fulfil QA require-
ments in all countries involved**

In a nutshell



Before	After
Multiple, fragmented reviews	Single review
Combining various national rules and criteria	Agreed Standards, based on ESG & QF-EHEA
Complex procedures, ad hoc design	Agreed Procedure

- **Scenarios:**

- 1) External QA at the level of individual programmes

- legal changes required (usually)

- 2) External QA at institutional level

- in the autonomy of HE institutions (usually)

- **Clusters:**

- Scenario 1: 34 countries (AD, AL, AM, AZ, BG, BY, CY, CZ, EE, ES, FR, GE, GR, HR, HU, IS, IT, KZ, LI, LT, LU, LV, MD, ME, MK, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SE, SI, SK, UA)

- Scenario 2: 6 countries (BA, CH, FI, MT, VA, UK)

- Mixed: 7 countries (AT, BE, DE, DK, IE, NL, NO)

- No obligatory EQA: 1 country (TR)

Availability of the European Approach

eqar

All higher education institutions are able to use the European Approach to satisfy national QA requirements

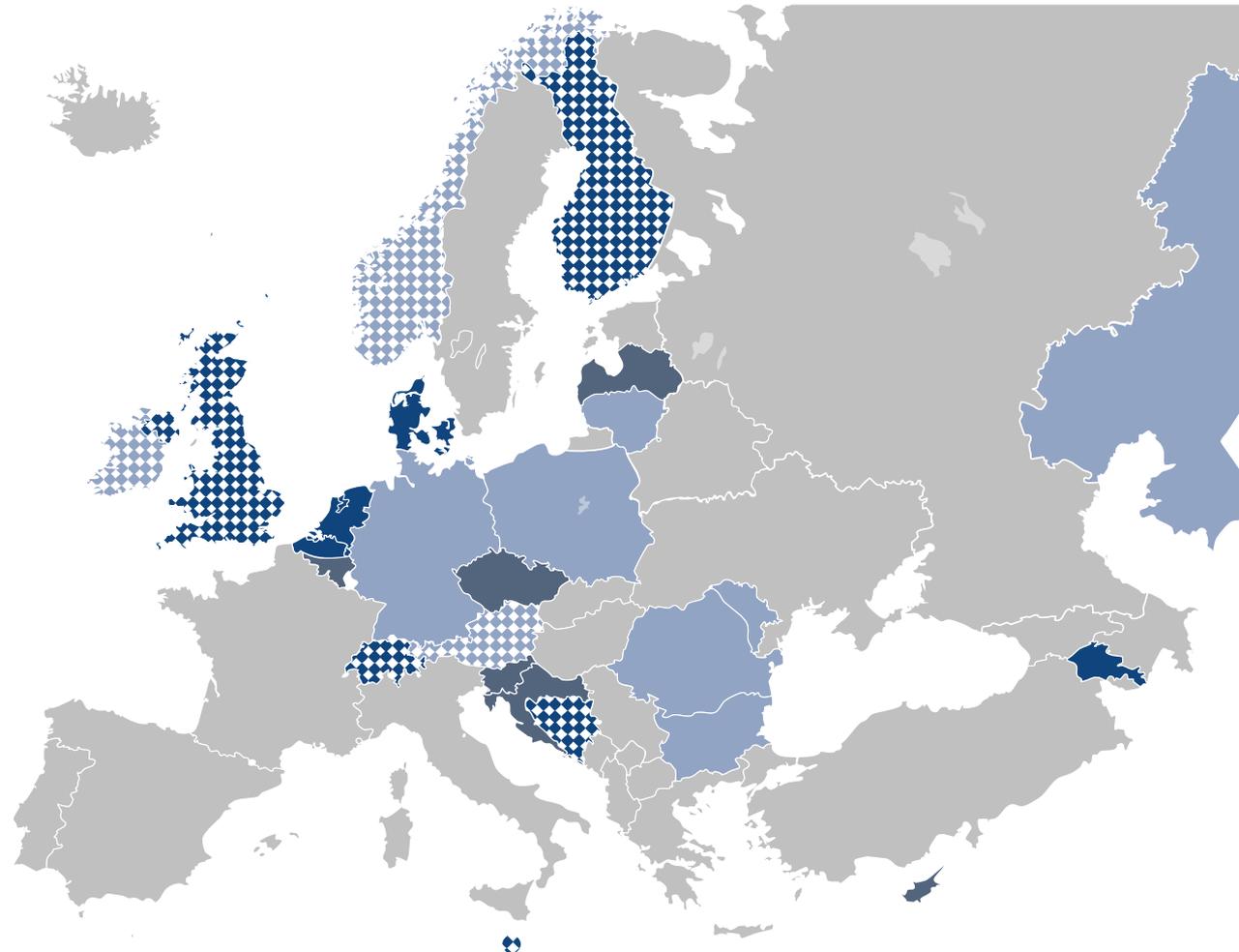
■ recognition of single external QA procedure for programmes

▨ HEIs being self- accrediting

Some higher education institutions or only under specific conditions

Discussions ongoing

Cannot be used to satisfy national QA requirements



Slow implementation?



- Possible reasons:
 - Hesitation to change national rules?
 - Too specific of a matter for separate change of law?
 - On “wait list” until next bigger change/reform?
 - Lack of demand from HE institutions?
 - Lack of urgency?
- But: which EHEA reform was implemented within a year...?

In practice (1): ITEps

(International Teacher Education for primary schools)



- A unique joint programme which trains students as teachers in international schools, ITEps was set up by a consortium of three European universities: University College South-East Norway (NO), Stenden University of Applied Sciences (NL), University College Zealand (DK)
- Why the European approach:
 - ITEps is an international programme;
 - The partner universities need one accreditation process;
 - After accreditation, newly invited European partners can use the outcomes of the ITEps accreditation for the accreditation of the programme in their home countries;
 - European accreditation has led to a noticeable increase in the trust placed in ITEps by a wide range of international schools and organisations;
 - The workload for European accreditation is comparable with the workload for national accreditation.

(Peter Elting, Programme Manager ITEps)

In practice (2): EuroPS

(Joint Master's Programme in Political Science
– Integration and Governance, PoSIG)



- Consortium involving AL, AT, BA, IT, MK, SI, XK¹
- Accreditation procedure in progress, by AQ Austria
- Challenges observed:
 - Eligibility (1.1) – gather documentation required
 - Recognition of result in countries involved
 - Different types of decision common (e.g. conditions)
 - Additional requirements than accreditation/QA
 - Consistent application by various agencies
 - Avoid duplication with Erasmus+ grant requirements

(thanks for input to Maria Weber, AQ Austria)

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, on this site shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

In practice: reflections



- Keen interest expressed by HE institutions
- QA agencies generally ready to use the EA
- Very few practical examples to date
- Why?
 - HEIs and QAAs constrained by national rules
 - Number of JP is not huge, how many needed programme accreditation since May 2015?
 - Re-accreditation following existing solution?
 - Waiting for others to make first experiences?

Further information



- Dedicated page:
www.eqar.eu/topics/joint-programmes.html
- Information on national implementation
- Frequent questions to follow
 - Your questions?
- Possibly: list of programmes reviewed

Key questions



- 1) What have been the reactions by the different stakeholders in your country to the adoption of the European Approach?
- 2) How interested are HEIs in your country in using the European Approach?
- 3) Can the European Approach be used according to your legislation? If not, what steps have you taken? What obstacles did you encounter?
- 4) Is there a need for more guidance or support? If so, in what area?

Thank you for your attention!

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