Breakout session III

Impact of external reviews beyond QA

Group 1 - The QA agency as a consultant and evaluation body

5 main discussion outcomes

- A need to use the procedures in a creative way for enhancement that do not hinder innovation but giving room to the autonomy of HEIs to find ways to cope with this responsibility. But not all the levels should be involved (postgraduate)
- Dealing with threshold standards, promoting excellence: syndrome of the superagency. Contexts and profile of the QA agencies matter a lot (national, sectorial, mixed)
- Dichotomy between programme and institutional accreditation for Q enhancement: not a black and white approach institutional strategy and QA policies can provide with mid-point approaches more efficient
- Consultancy and/or accreditation roles. Pedagogical activities to support HEIs in particular issues can be necessary and complementary in some contexts but drawing a clear line from consultancy practices. Gatekeeper and consultant
- It must be analised in each context. Depends on legal frameworks and academic traditions. Where it is possible: clear rules and code of good practices should be established