

What do the institutions do, know, and need?

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Survey of European HEIs

- Survey of selected HEIs in the core countries (DE, ES, FR and UK) known to be active in CBHE
 - Questions asking about the extent and type of activities, target countries, the IQA and EQA systems in place, specific national support schemes and policies, collaboration with the host country authorities, well as any eventual good practice (by the national agency, or in collaboration with the foreign agency)
 - Challenging survey despite careful selection of respondents (47 institutions)
 - 21 responses, but most questions completed by less than half!
 - Misunderstanding of terminology and limited understanding of the phenomenon
 - Lack of knowledge on the QA process the programme(s) was (were) subjected to → unreliable or unusable responses
 - Contradictory responses re: the national system
- unreliable data → follow-up in December for elements not sufficiently covered in agency survey and in country reports (in particular for good practice experiences)

General observations

- First lesson: in most of the countries CBHE is not a well known phenomenon and terminology is difficult to understand
- People know of their own case, but no beyond that → not able to put their own case into a larger framework (e.g. analyse the typology of the provision, or the wider national context)
- National strategies, policies, guidelines and requirements are in most cases not well known (“yes”, “no”, and “I don’t know” from HEIs in the same country) → no mainstreaming (sharing of good practice at the national level?)
- But neither is the institutional framework! → Unclear whether there is none, or it is not properly communicated to the programmes (not relevant?) → is there a strategic approach to CBHE or does it depend on individual initiative (only)?

Some data - 1

- Branch campuses for institutional mobility and joint programmes for programme mobility are the most common forms of CBHE of the HEIs surveyed
- Target countries mentioned (24 in total) include 5 in the Gulf/Arab region (topped by UAE and Egypt) and 9 in East-Asia (topped by China)
- National legislation (77%) and the ESG (54%) are the most important frames of reference (also) for CBHE IQA. OECD/UNESCO guidelines were mentioned by two respondents
- Regulatory framework is mostly the same as for programmes “at home”, with some cases of additional criteria
- While $\frac{3}{4}$ think that the EQA criteria are useful and fit for purpose for CBHE, some think they are too rigid and not suited for international projects
- In 6 cases out of 14 HEI indicate a specific approach to IQA of CBHE (42%) → regards issues such as partner selection, hosting services, mobility, recognition agreements and risk management

Some data - 2

- Key challenges to CBHE as seen by the HEI:
 - 1) Risk to reputation (83%);
 - 2) QA procedures (conflicting criteria, lack of coordination between systems, etc.) (75%);
 - 3) Recognition issues and balance of responsibility between home and host authorities (both 50%)

QA in a central role: adequate QA, and systematic cooperation with local authorities will protect reputation and support recognition

At the same time...

- Most respondents do not know whether their national QA agency cooperates with the host country QA agencies. Two respondents: in all destination countries and for further two: in some countries → identified benefits: recognition and mobility
- 58% (7 out of 12) indicate that their HEI cooperates with the host country QA agency/accreditation authority but conflicting criteria may hamper these efforts

What are the expectations on QA agencies?

- Be aware of the different regulatory framework in the host country → work with local QA agencies to match the requirements (should not be contradictory!), and to ensure recognition
- Enable for more flexible approaches that can adapt themselves to different situations and cases (international ventures, joint programmes, etc.)
- Provide information on the regulatory framework in different countries (→ Is this a feasible task? For main target countries only?)
- Provide information on the (exporting) national HE system and its specific features to be used in discussions with the host countries
- Develop guidance on how to deal with (I)QA of CBHE
- Use peers with a good understanding of the regulatory framework, cultural context etc. in the host country in the CBHE related assessments



Thank you!

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