

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

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european consortium for accreditation

Before the European Approach...

- Different national QA regimes: fragmented assessments, multiple procedures, frameworks, visits, panels, reports, decisions
- Methodological projects on JP and QA: ENQA TEEP, ECA TEAM
- ECA project JOQAR (2010-2013): single accreditation procedures and mutual recognition of accreditation of joint programmes, tested in pilots
- NVAO accredited European Joint Master's in Strategic Border Management with assessment framework developed in JOQAR (2014-2015):

Vilnius conference: http://jpsa2017.mruni.eu/?page_id=483

Development of European Approach

- Bucharest Communiqué (2012): „we will aim to recognise quality assurance decisions of EQAR-registered agencies on joint and double degree programmes“
- Ad hoc-Expert group was asked by BFUG to make proposal
- Involvement of Bologna working groups, stakeholders, BFUG
- European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes; adopted in May 2015 by EHEA Ministers in Yerevan

European Approach for QA of JPs (EA)

- Background report (context, current QA practices, lessons learnt from JOQAR project)
- European Approach:
 - Introduction and definitions
 - A. Application in Different Systems of External QA
 - B. Standards for QA of Joint Programmes
 - C. Procedure for External QA of Joint Programmes

Note: B and C are in line with European Standards and Guidelines for QA in EHEA (ESG)

<http://www.eqar.eu/topics/joint-programmes>

Essence of European Approach

European standards and procedure

- Standards and procedure according to ESG, taking “jointness” into account

Decision/result

- By EQAR-listed agency
- Accepted in other EHEA countries by other agencies

No additional national criteria!

- “Setting standards...based on the agreed tools of the EHEA, without applying additional national criteria”

Additional national criteria problematic

(Source: ECA's JOQAR project)

Too many national criteria and national requirements in external QA/accreditation of joint programmes

- Sometimes not about quality
- Not suited for joint programmes
- Contradict each other

Very long list of examples:

- The assessment report (expert report) is required to be in the national language;
- National QA agencies which are not allowed to coordinate an international procedure / undertake a site visit abroad;
- Master thesis:
“max. 30 ECTS credits” vs. “at least 35% of the total number of credits”;
- Very detailed, national staff requirements
- ...

Definitions in EA

- **Joint programme:** An integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different HEIs from EHEA countries and leading to a double/multiple degrees or a joint degree
- **Double/Multiple degrees:** Separate degrees awarded by HEIs offering the joint programme attesting the successful completion of this programme
(If 2 degrees are awarded by 2 institutions, this is a „double degree“)

Definitions in EA

- **Joint degree:** A single document awarded by HEIs offering the joint programme and nationally acknowledged as the recognised award of the joint programme

A. Application in Different Systems of External QA

- If some of cooperating HEIs require programme accreditation/evaluation then HEIs should select a QA agency registered in EQAR
 - 45 agencies listed (www.eqar.eu) that have been positively evaluated against ESG
- Agency will use Standards and Procedure to carry out a single procedure of the entire joint programme; the decision to be recognised in all countries where the programme is offered
- European Approach may be used by self-accrediting HEIs and countries outside of EHEA

B. Standards for QA of Joint Programmes

1. Eligibility
 - status; joint design/delivery; cooperation agreement
2. Learning Outcomes
 - level; disciplinary field; achievement; (regulated professions)
3. Study Programme
 - curriculum; credits; workload
4. Admission and Recognition
5. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

B. Standards for QA of Joint Programmes

6. Student Support

7. Resources

- staff; facilities

8. Transparency and Documentation

9. Quality Assurance

C. Procedure for external QA of joint programmes

- The cooperating institutions should jointly select a suitable EQAR-registered quality assurance agency.
- The agency should communicate appropriately with the competent national authorities of the countries in which the cooperating higher education institutions are based.

C. Procedure for external QA of joint programmes

1. Self-Evaluation Report
2. Review Panel
3. Site Visit
4. Review Report
5. Formal Outcomes and Decision
6. Appeals
7. Reporting
8. Follow-Up
9. Periodicity

First experiences with European Approach

1. NVAO accreditation (30 June 2016) of new Bachelor's programme International Teacher Education for Primary Schools (ITEPS) provided by Stenden University of Applied Sciences, in cooperation with University College of South East Norway and University College Zealand (Denmark)

First experiences with European Approach (cont.)

2. AQ Austria accreditation (March 2017, conditions) of Joint MA European Political Science (EuroPS): new programme, EU project funding. Consortium:

- University of Salzburg (PLUS)
- University of Ljubljana (ULJU)
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM)
- European University of Tirana (UET)
- University of Tirana (UTIR)
- FAMA College (FAMA) – Prishtina
- University of Business and Technology (UBT) – Prishtina
- University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
- Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST)

First experiences with European Approach (cont.)

3. ZevA accreditation (18 July 2017) of “Maritime Operations” (M.Sc.)

jointly offered by Hochschule Emden-Leer and
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Some other procedures ongoing or announced

Also used for internal QA of joint programmes (TU
Munich: *system accredited*)

ECA reports on joint programmes



Portal:Joint programmes



The Joint programmes portal provides information on the quality assurance of joint programmes, including accreditation issues, on the recognition of degrees awarded by joint programmes and on Erasmus Mundus. In addition, the portal provides a check-list for joint programmes.

Terminology

A clear presentation of the joint programme terminology and its concepts, with background information and agreed upon definitions.

The Checklist

The Checklist provides the lessons learnt from quality assurance as good practices for developing and managing joint programmes.

Practical guidelines

These practical guidelines come from different sources and cover several topics, such as sustainability, employability, etc.

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Outcomes Peer Learning Activity 5 - 6 October 2017, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Quality assurance

How to deal with specific internal and external quality assurance and with varying national quality assurance regimes.

Erasmus Mundus

Everything you need to know about Erasmus Mundus, including an overview of all Erasmus Mundus Master and Doctorate programmes.

Recognition

Article overview

Joint programmes from A to

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