Towards QA collaboration and exchange : ECA's work on assessment of internationalisation and joint programmes

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NVAO & ECA

APQN Conference, 8 March 2014, Hanoi

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Content

- ECA: foundation and aims
- Assessment of internationalisation:
  - CeQuInt project
- Accreditation and recognition of joint programmes:
  - JOQAR project
  - Recognition of joint degrees
  - Accreditation of joint programmes

ECA: foundation and aims

- 16 agencies from 12 European countries; founded 2003
- Aims:
  - Mutual recognition of accreditation & QA decisions
  - Mutual learning and dissemination of good practices
  - Information on quality and facilitation of internationalisation

- Results:
  - Mutual recognition agreements
  - Code of good practice, QA principles, publications, projects

- New services:
  - Internationalisation Certificate
  - Coordination Point for Joint Programmes
  - Trainings

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Assessment of internationalisation

- Aim: Internationalisation certificate awarded by ECA
- EU funded project: Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation (CeQuInt)
- To assess quality of internationalisation
  - Qualitative assessment (not quantitative indicators)
- To reward internationalisation
  - Award of a Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation
- To enhance internationalisation
  - Expert report with recommendations
  - Good Practice Workshops
  - Online Platform for sharing Good Practices

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CeQuInt Project Partners

Project groups

Steering Group

Stakeholders Group

- 15 higher education institutions
  - Belgium,
  - Denmark,
  - Finland,
  - Germany,
  - Italy,
  - Lithuania,
  - Norway,
  - Poland,
  - Spain,
  - The Netherlands,
  - UK

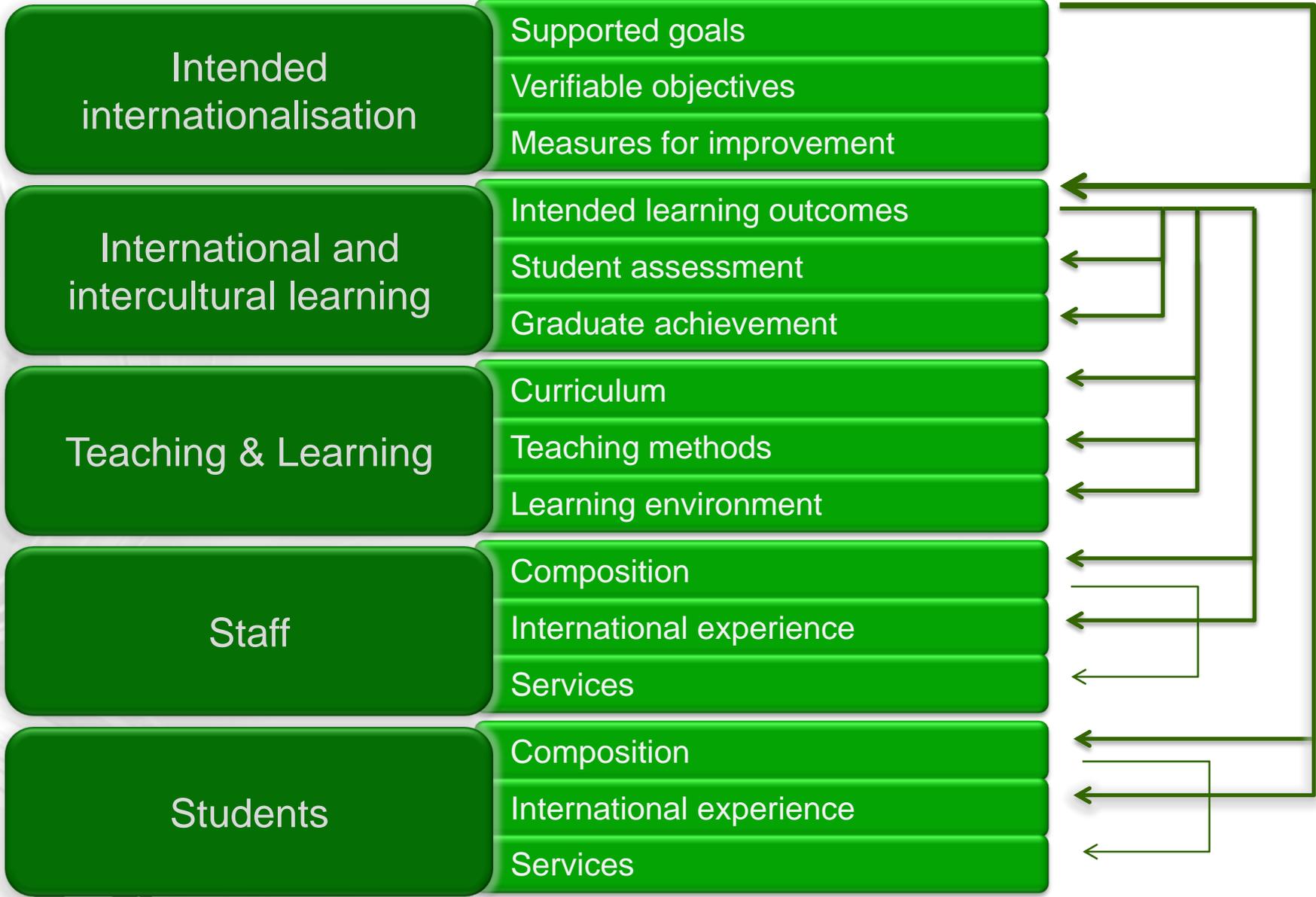| 2012			2013													2014													2015		
10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	01	02	03

12 Pilot procedures

Programme level

- AQ Austria: International Health and Social Management, Management Center Innsbruck

- ASHE: Medical Studies, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia

- CTI: Ecole des Ponts Paristech, France

- PKA: Bachelor Studies in International Economics, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

- SQAA: Master International Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

- ZEvA: Master European Integration / European and International Law, Saarland University, Germany
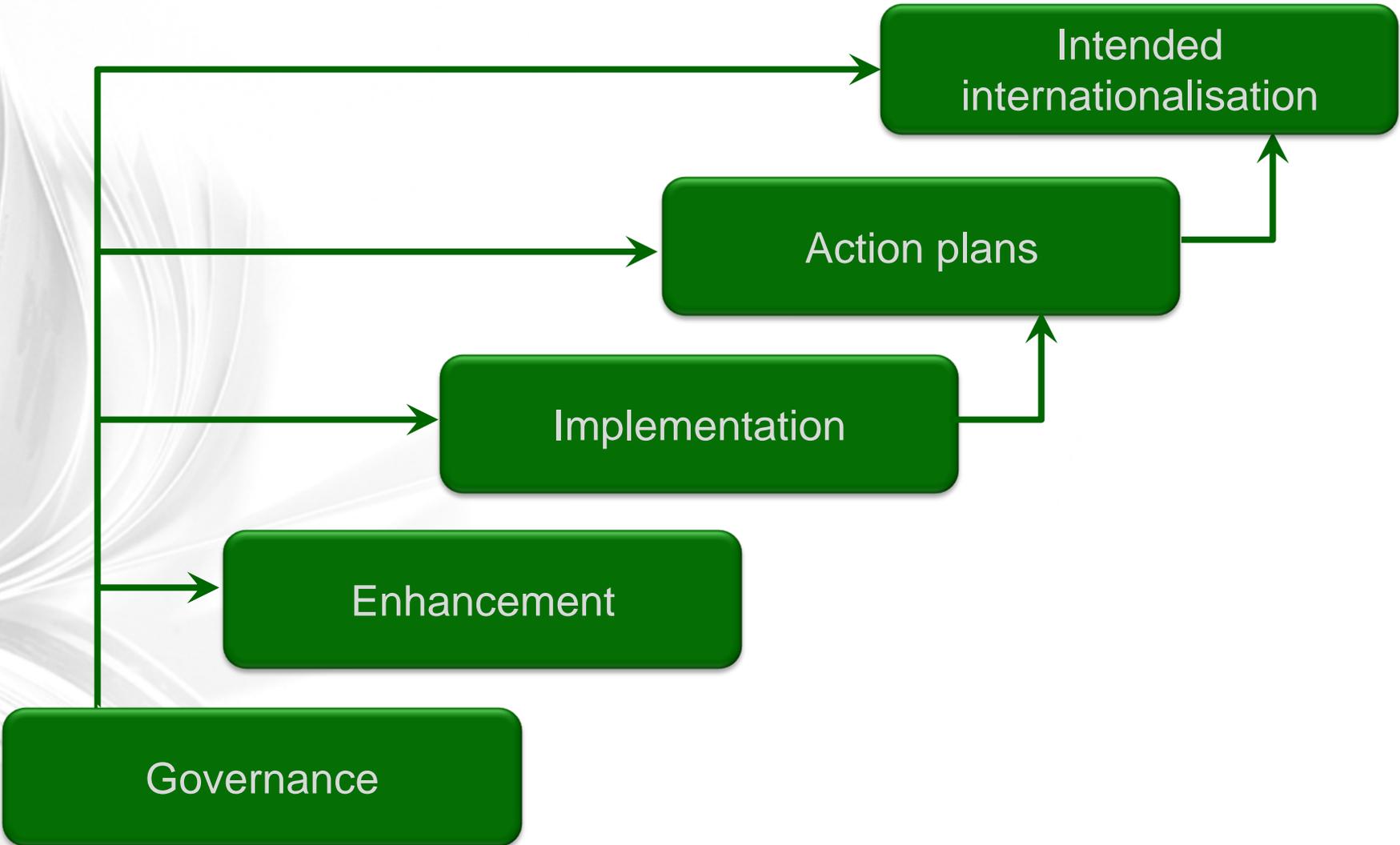
Institutional level

- AERES: Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France

- ANECA: Faculty of Education, University of Murcia, Spain

- AQU Catalunya: Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain

- FINHEEC: Laurea-ammattikorkeakoulu (University of Applied Sciences), Finland

Framework programme level

Intended internationalisation	Supported goals
	Verifiable objectives
	Measures for improvement

International and intercultural learning	Intended learning outcomes
	Student assessment
	Graduate achievement

Teaching & Learning	Curriculum
	Teaching methods
	Learning environment

Staff	Composition
	International experience
	Services

Students	Composition
	International experience
	Services

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Framework institutional level

Assessment standards

Intended internationalisation

Action plans

Implementation

Enhancement

Governance

Assessment methodology

Accreditation and recognition of Joint Programmes (JPs)

- JPs are on top of the European HE agenda
  - Stimulating mobility, international/intercultural competences, partnerships HEIs

- Total number of JPs: 4,000 (estimate European Commission)

- Obstacles for HEIs in organising JPs

- Problems with recognition of qualifications

- Challenges in the accreditation/QA of JPs

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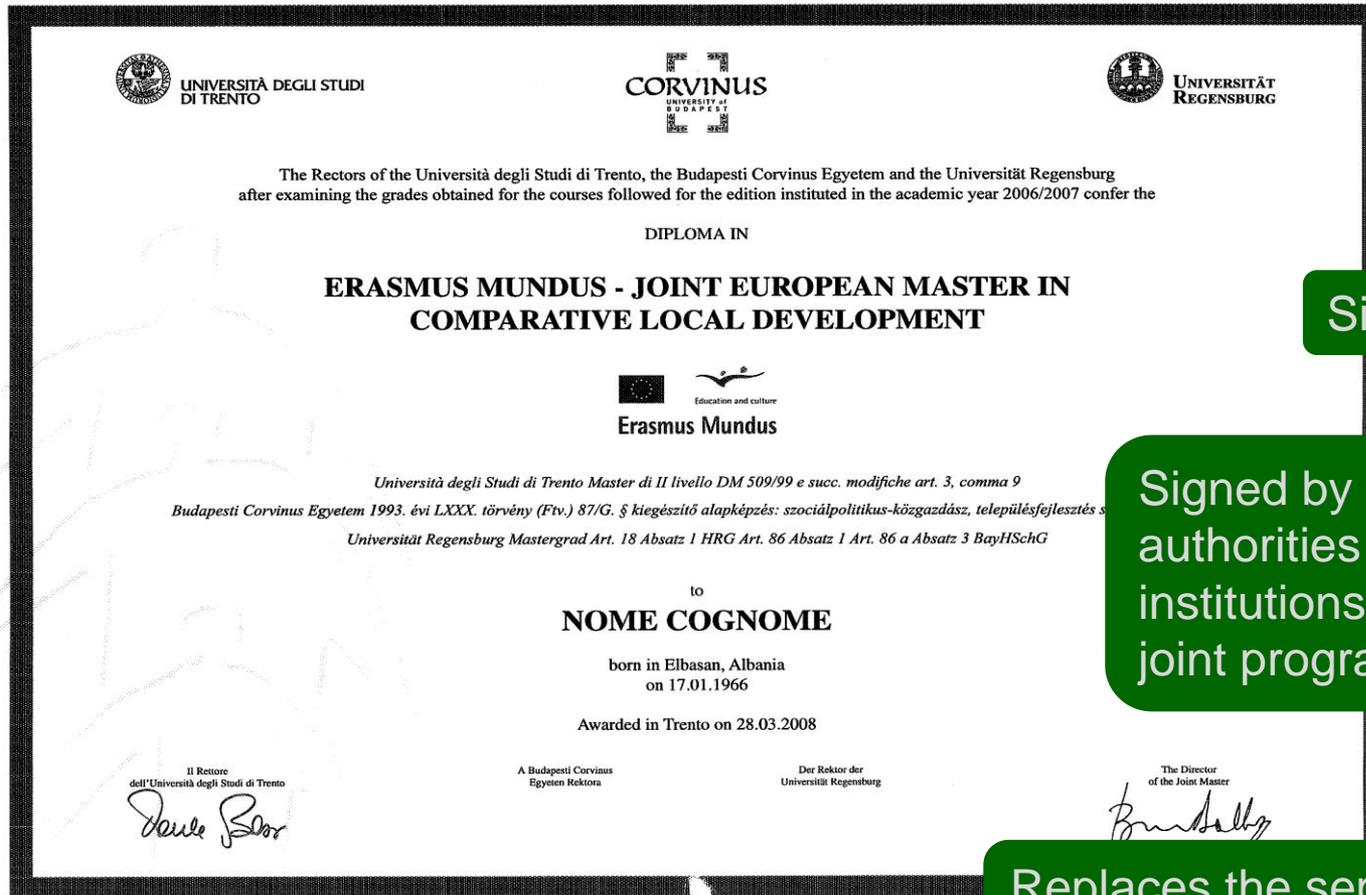
JOQAR : **essentials**

- Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded (JOQAR)

- ECA+ project:
  - 14 Quality Assurance agencies
  - 4 ENIC-NARICs (recognition authorities)

- EU Erasmus Mundus Action 3 funding

- Nov. 2010 – Oct. 2013

- Overall aim:

  to ensure that joint programmes are facilitated in two specific areas: accreditation and recognition

European Commission
ERASMUS MUNDUS

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Joint programme and degree - Definitions

- Joint programme: „An integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different HEIs and leading to a double/multiple/joint degree"

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

Joint degree: example

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO

CORVINUS UNIVERSITY of BUDAPEST

UNIVERSITÄT REGENSBURG

The Rectors of the Università degli Studi di Trento, the Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem and the Universität Regensburg after examining the grades obtained for the courses followed for the edition instituted in the academic year 2006/2007 confer the

DIPLOMA IN

ERASMUS MUNDUS - JOINT EUROPEAN MASTER IN COMPARATIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Education and culture
Erasmus Mundus

Università degli Studi di Trento Master di II livello DM 509/99 e succ. modifiche art. 3, comma 9

Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem 1993. évi LXXX. törvény (Ftv.) 87/G. § kiegészítő alapképzés: szociálpolitikus-közgazdász, településfejlesztés

Universität Regensburg Mastergrad Art. 18 Absatz 1 HRG Art. 86 Absatz 1 Art. 86 a Absatz 3 BayHSchG

to

NOME COGNOME

born in Elbasan, Albania
on 17.01.1966

Awarded in Trento on 28.03.2008

Il Rettore
dell'Università degli Studi di Trento

A Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem Rektora

Der Rektor der Universität Regensburg

The Director of the Joint Master

Single document

Signed by the competent authorities of the institutions involved in the joint programme

Replaces the separate (institutional/national) degrees

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Recognition of joint degrees

1. Awareness-raising in HEIs about ENIC-NARICs' expectations regarding joint degrees

   - Degree design

   - Diploma supplement

   - Legal frameworks

2. Establishment of a common ground among ENIC-NARICs regarding the recognition of joint degrees

   - Legal principles

   - Consortium cooperation and programme offering
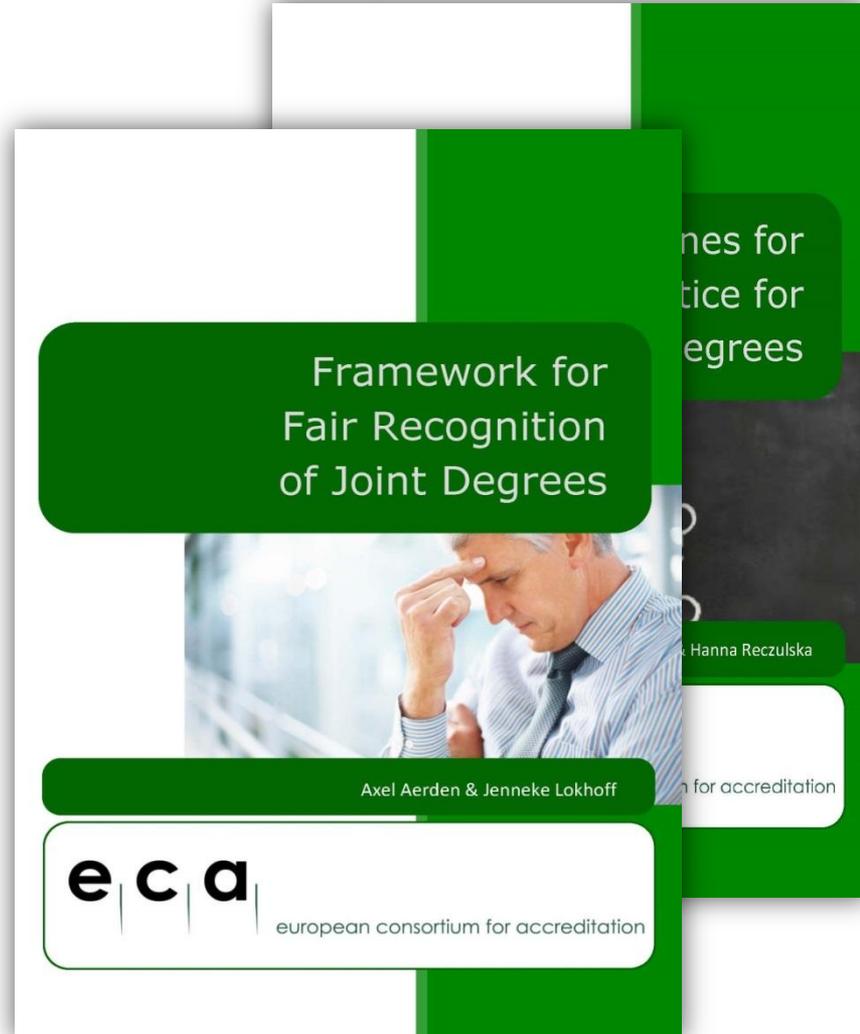
   - Degree awarding

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Overcoming challenges…

Guidelines for Good Practice for Awarding Joint Degrees

Useful for HEIs

Framework for Fair Recognition of Joint Degrees

Useful for recognition authorities

Framework for
Fair Recognition
of Joint Degrees

Axel Aerden & Jenneke Lokhoff

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Accreditation of JPs: challenges

- Joint programmes are confronted with different national QA regimes

- There is no single QA/accreditation procedure

- Multiple procedures, frameworks, visits, panels, reports

- Decisions may only have an influence on national system

Source: ECA Conference on joint programmes, Graz, June 2010

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JOQAR solutions for accreditation of JPs

Multilateral Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Accreditation Results regarding Joint Programmes (MULTRA)

Coordination Point for Joint Programmes

Single Accreditation Procedures for Joint Programmes

ECApedia

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Multilateral Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Accreditation Results regarding Joint Programmes (MULTRA)

The signing accreditation organisations agree to apply the ECA principles for accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes;

and confirm that within their competences they accept the results of the accreditation procedures of the other signing accreditation organisations when accrediting joint programmes

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MULTRA

- ➢ Signing of MULTRA possible after external review of agency and observation of procedure

- ➢ Observation report by 2 observers from MULTRA agencies: decision by MULTRA signatory agencies

- ➢ MULTRA signed by 12 agencies in Austria, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands and Flanders, Poland, Slovenia, Spain; Costa Rica to follow

- ➢ Open for other agencies/countries

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Single accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes

Single procedure

- **Procedure by:**
  - One agency
- **Focus of procedure**
  - Whole joint programme
- **Result:**
  - National (accreditations) in countries of JP consortium

Single accreditation procedure

- 1 coordinating agency responsible for the procedure
- Agencies of other consortium countries can be involved:
  - Being informed on procedure and outcomes
  - Proposing additional national criteria
  - Proposing an expert for panel
  - Sending an observer to the site visit
- The totality of the joint programme is assessed
- 1 international panel; 1 site visit; 1 report

In JOQAR 4 pilot procedures of single accreditation of joint programmes (4 Erasmus Mundus joint Masters)

Pilot procedures: assessment framework

Shared component
- Criteria and procedure agreed by coordinating agencies

(Additional national components)
- Necessary (legal) criteria and procedural aspects added by other involved agencies

Decision
- By coordinating agency
- Accepted by involved agencies

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Assessment standards and criteria (1/3)

1. General conditions
- *Criterion 1a:*   Recognition
- *Criterion 1b:*   Cooperation agreement
- *Criterion 1c:*   Added value

2. Intended learning outcomes
- *Criterion 2a:*   Shared
- *Criterion 2b:*   Level
- *Criterion 2c:*   Subject/discipline

Assessment standards and criteria (2/3)

3. Programme

- *Criterion 3a:*   Admission
- *Criterion 3b:*   Structure
- *Criterion 3c:*   Credits

4. Internal quality assurance

- *Criterion 4a:*   Common understanding
- *Criterion 4b:*   Stakeholder involvement
- *Criterion 4c:*   Continuous improvement

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Assessment criteria (3/3)

5. Facilities and student support
- *Criterion 5a:*   Facilities
- *Criterion 5b:*   Support
- *Criterion 5c:*   Services

6. Teaching and learning
- *Criterion 6a:*   Staff
- *Criterion 6b:*   Assessment of students
- *Criterion 6c:*   Achievement

(7. Additional national criteria)

Additional national components problematic

Too many <u>national criteria and national requirements</u> 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";
- …

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Outcomes evaluation of pilots

- Evaluated positively by the joint programme coordinators, experts, coordinating agencies and ECA
- Joint programmes welcome: advantage of 1 procedure; recommendations are beneficial for them
- Many decisions taken; decision-making phase ongoing
- Shared criteria viewed positively
- Remove additional national criteria for JPs
- Pool of trained experts for single procedures of JPs

Coordination Point for Joint Programmes

Conclusions of feasibility study:

- There is a demand amongst both the joint programmes and the QA agencies for a coordination point regarding joint programmes

- Main focus of the coordination point should be **the provision of information** and **the coordination of single accreditation procedures and MULTRA**

- ECA is prepared to provide the coordination point for joint programmes

Joint Programmes Portal

Available ECA reports on JOQAR project

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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www.ecahe.eu

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