



# Quality Assurance in European University Alliances. The CHARM-EU experience

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- 1. CHARM-EU alliance and our approach
- 2. The Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability
- 3. The accreditation process and the European Approach
- 4. The Quality System
- 5. Next steps



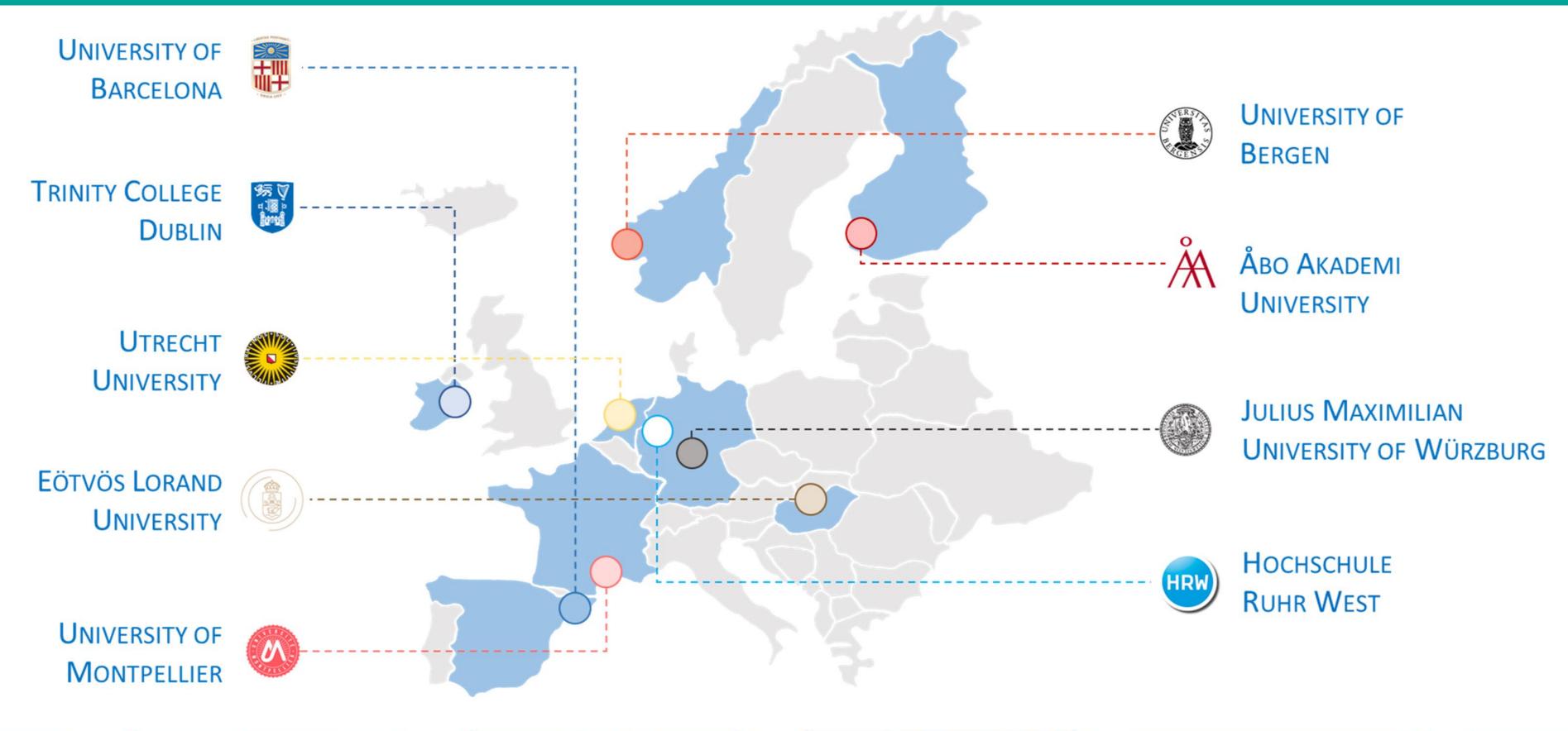


#### 1. CHARM-EU alliance and our approach

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#### **CHARM European University (CHARM-EU)**

(Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile European University)



Universities

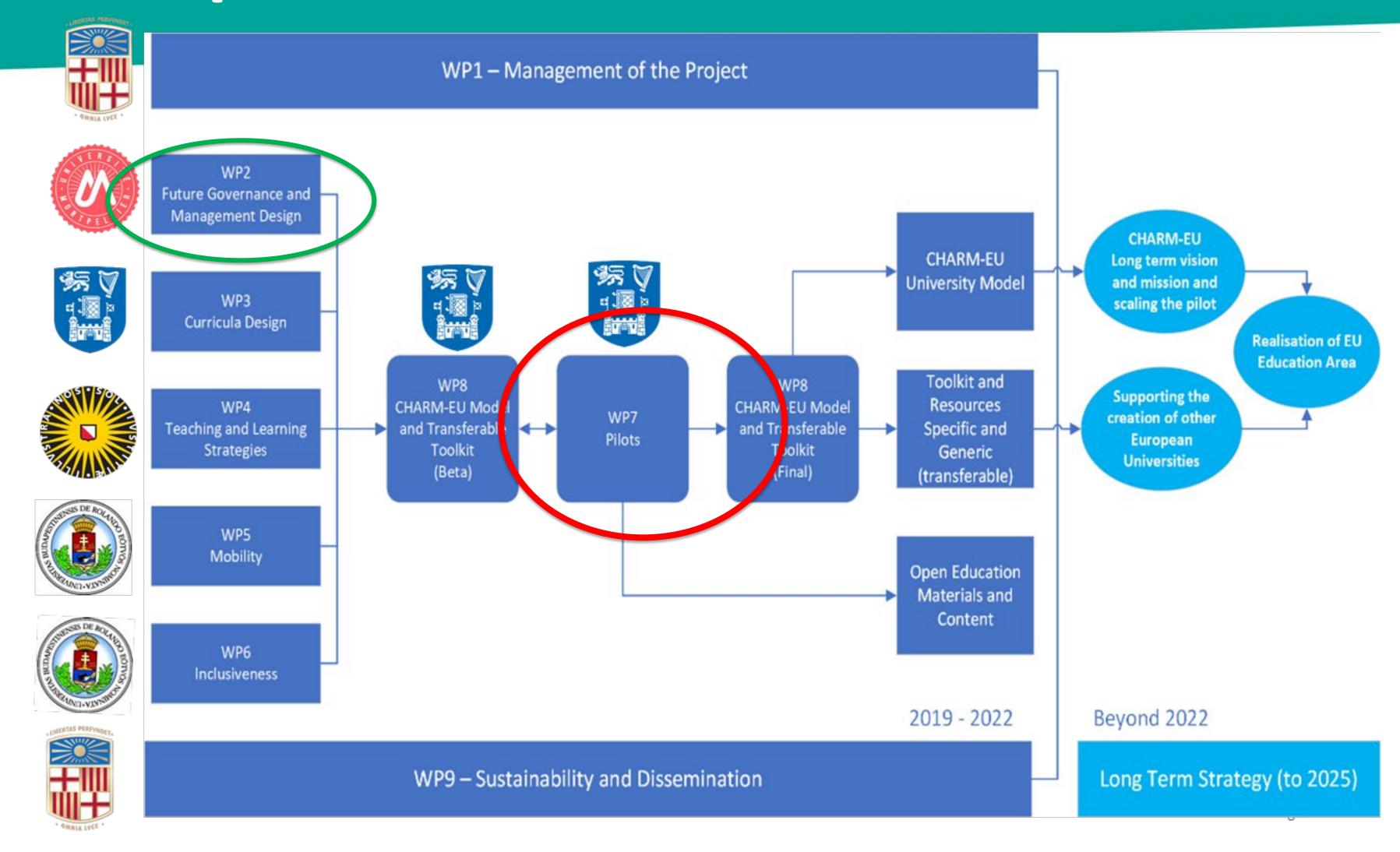
associate partners

6/4 faculties 22/1 academics / researchers 4213 staff

26913 students



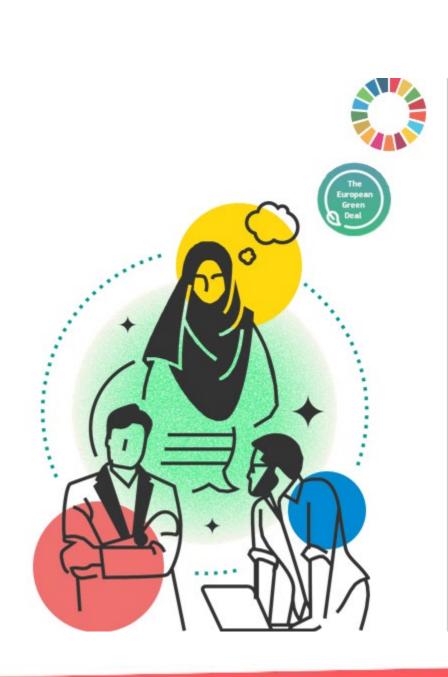
# The Master's programe as a proof of concept of the CHARM-EU model







# 2. The Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability: an innovative learning experience

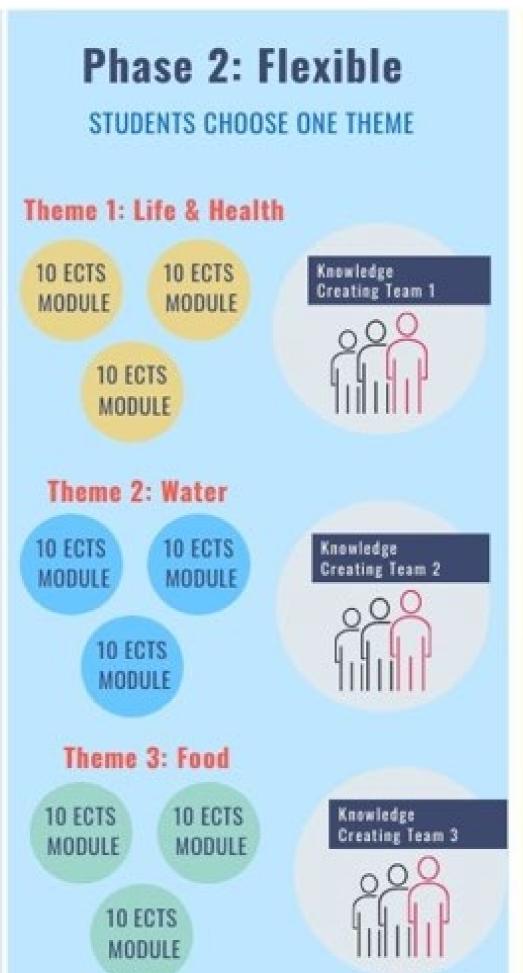


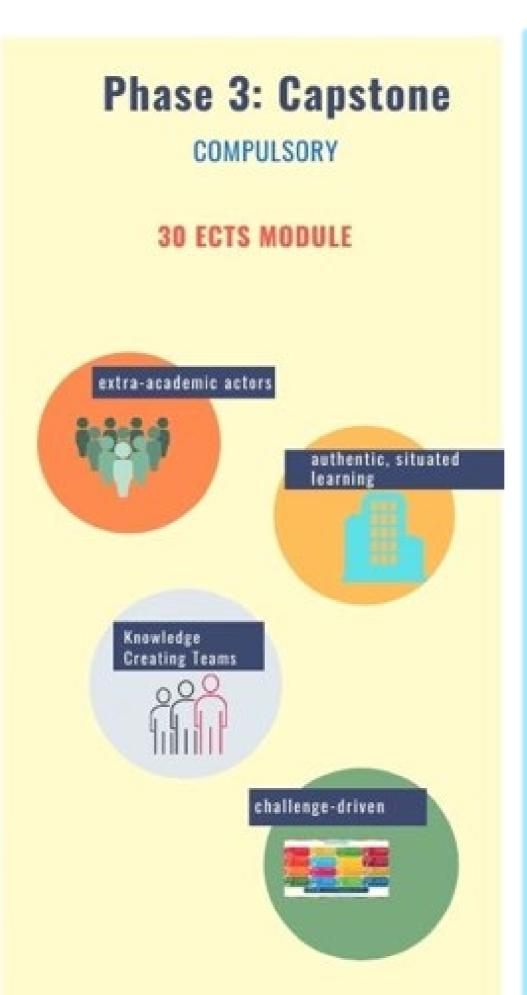


### About the Master: several challenges



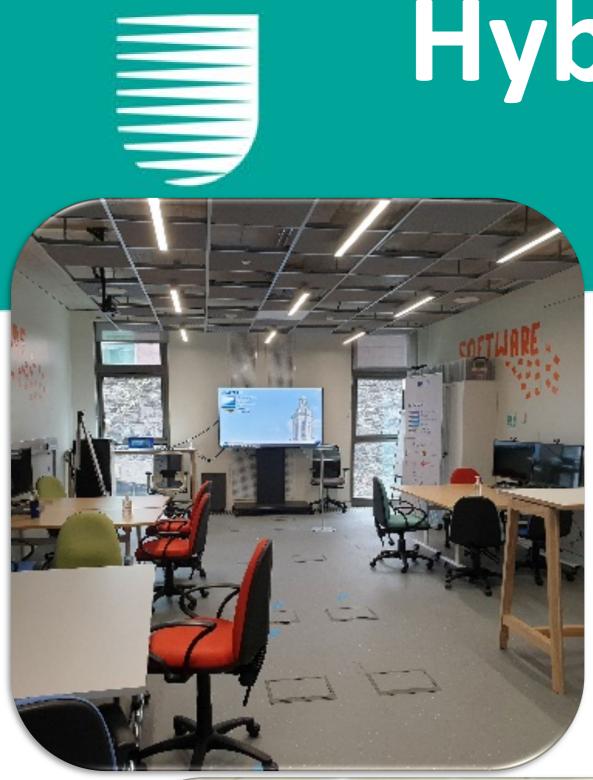






- ✓ Joint degree: one award/one parchment
- **✓** 90 ECTS
- ✓ Unique tuition fees
- ✓ Unique admissions and registration process
- ✓ Balance student assignment among the five campuses
- ✓ Specific academic rules and regulations
- ✓ Transdisciplinary
- ✓ Challenge-based and student centered
- ✓ Hybrid and synchro delivery
- ✓ Technology enhance
- ✓ Mobility embedded in the curriculum

### Hybrid Learning





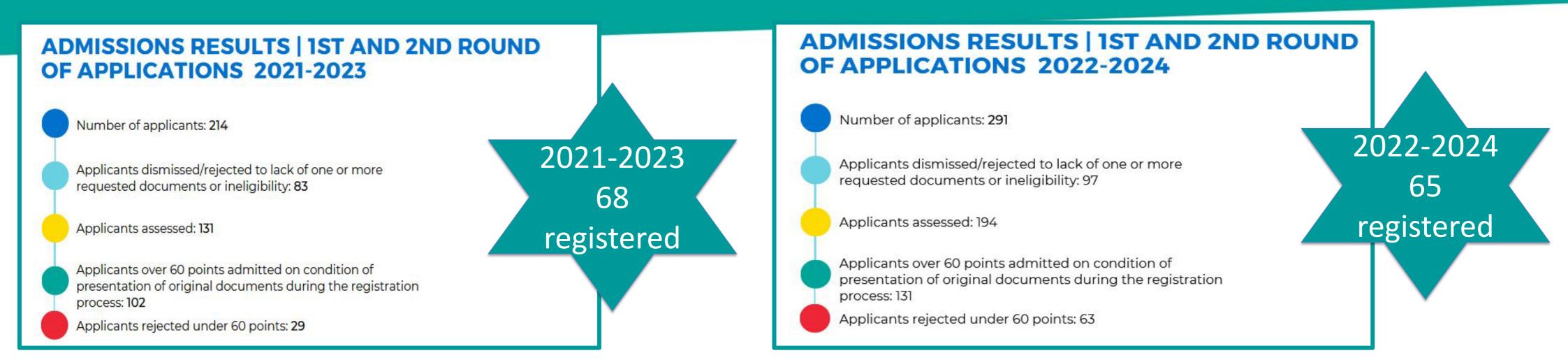








#### The results: three editions so far



Geographical areas*	Final proportion in the accepted list
Northern Europe (N)	0,00%
Southern Europe (S)	15,12%
Western Europe (W)	72,09%
Central and Eastern Europe (C)	5,81%
Non-EU (X)	<b>7</b> %

<sup>\*</sup>Reference: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/browse/eurovoc.html?params=72,7206#arrow\_7206

Disciplines*	Code	Final proportion in the accepted list
Arts, humanities and education (categories 00, 01 and 02)	AHE	18,60%
Social sciences, business and law (categories 03, 04 and 10)	SBL	53,49%
Science, technology, health (categories 05, 06, 07, 08 and 09)	STH	27,91%

2023-2025

68

registered



# The results: it became real



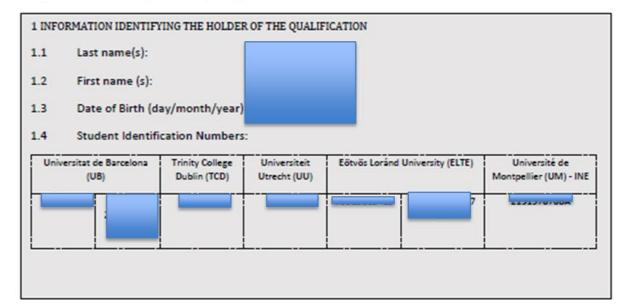




#### CHARM EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT Master's degree

The purpose of the Diploma Supplement is to provide sufficient independent data to improve the international 'transparency' and fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates, etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It is free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. This Diploma Supplement model was developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO.



2 INFO	DRMATION IDENTIFYING THE QUAL	LIFICATION
2.1	Name of qualification:	Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability  – Joint degree -
	Spain/Catalonia	Máster Universitario en Retos Globales para la Sostenibilidad / Màster Universitari en Reptes Globals per a la Sostenibilitat
	Ireland	Master's in Global Challenges for Sustainability
	the Netherlands	Master of Science (MSc) in Global Challenges for Sustainability.
	Hungary	Okleveles fenntarthatósági szakértő
	France	Diplôme d'établissement « Défis globaux pour le développement durable » conférant grade de master





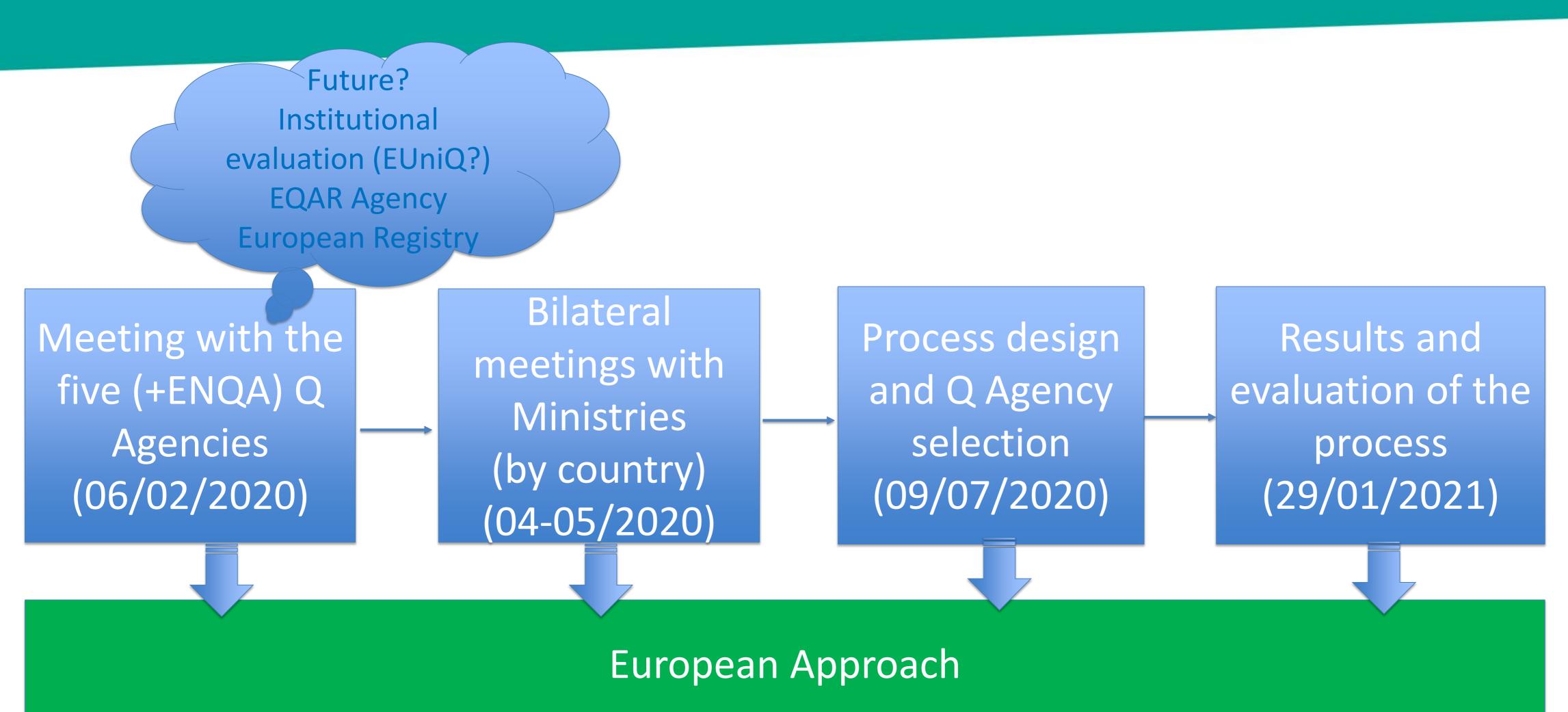
# 3. The accreditation process and the European Approach

# The accreditation process: main challenges (2020)

- 1. Entitled by the European Commission to aim for a quantum leap, and to use a cocreation process.
- 2. Five countries, five legislations, five templates and procedures, five academic rules and regulations, five tuition fees, ...
- 4. Long term ex-ante accreditation processes 24-40 months
- 5. Even one single legislation is not flexible enough for innovation
- 6. Many of the legislation barriers are not necessary linked to quality (and the ESG)

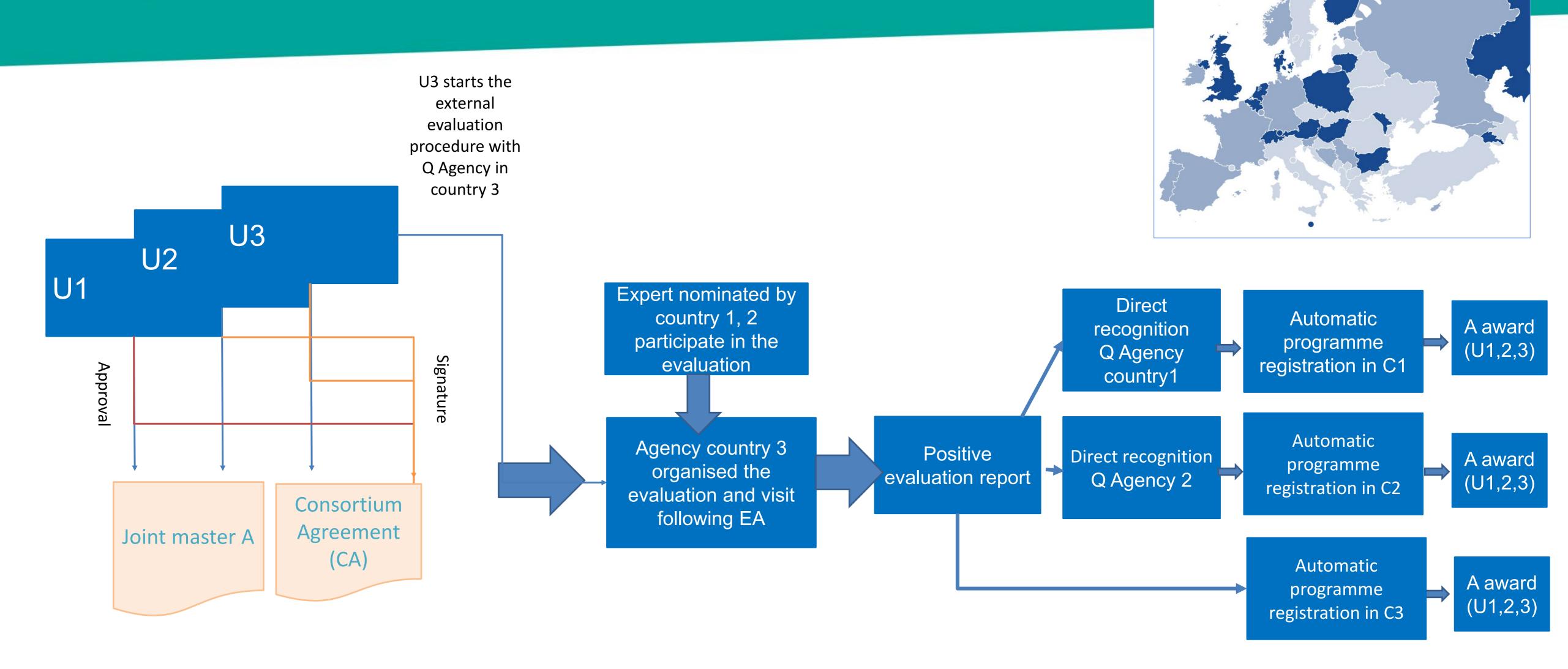


### Co-creation with Agencies and Ministries



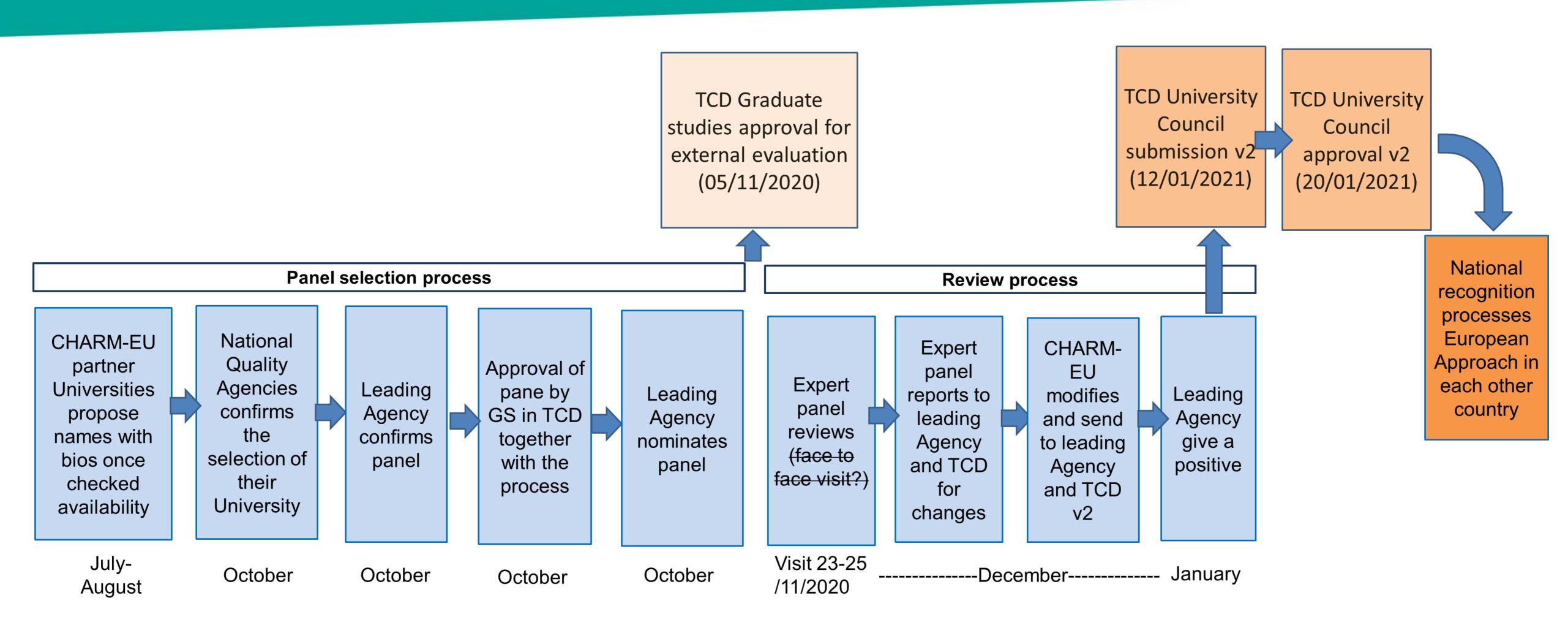
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# Accreditation process applying European Approach. The concept





### External review and European Approach embedded in the approval process



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### Lesssons learnt (I): the bad news

- ✓ Long ex-ante accreditation procedures in many countries.
- ✓ National regulations have many additional topics added to European Quality Standards.
- ✓ Interpretation and implementation of the European Education Area can differ significantly from country to country. If the programme is innovative, the difficulties go higher in the scale.
- ✓ Many countries have signed the EA. However there is a gap between adhesion and application.
- ✓ The previous points make very difficult the accreditation of a joint programme in the programme accreditation-based system if it is not using the European Approach.

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### Lesssons learnt (II): the good news

- ✓ Agencies and Ministries are willing to work with European Universities and do their best to help. Work with Agencies and Ministries to ensure a common understanding in advance (template of the document, procedure, calendar, main characteristics of the degree, etc.)
- ✓ Several countries are changing their legislations to facilitate the transnational cooperation and the joint European programmes.

A tip!: Ensure the participation of your experts in the programme design and accreditation in the national context from the beginning.





### 4. The Quality System



#### QUALITY MODEL

**European Framework Documents** 

European Standard Guidelines

European Approach to Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

> European Qualifications Framework

**ECTS Users Guide** 

CHARM – EU Framework Documents

> Collaboration Agreement

Master Proposal

Admission Regulations

Assessment Regulations

Mobility regulation

Inclusivity Index

Polices, Procedures, Processes

Quality Management System Policy

New Programme
Design and Approval
Policy and Procedure

Complaints Policy and Procedure

Appeals Policy

Data monitoring Process

**Survey Process** 

Organisation

**Rectors Assembly** 

**Academic Board** 

Admissions Board

**Examinations Board** 

Appeals Board

Council

Joint Virtual

Administration Office

Joint Virtual Quality
Office

CHARM EU Student Services People

Students

Kowledge Creating Teams

Mentors

**Professional Staff** 

Stakeholders

**Systems** 

CHARM-EU Website

VLE/e-Portfolio

Student Information System

Staffing Information "System"

Finance Information "Systems"



## FROM DESIGN TO IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION

DESIGNING (PLAN) (year 2020) Master policies & procedures required for accreditation and implementation

CHARM – EU website.

IMPROVING, SCALING AND TRANSFERING (ACT)

(year 2022-and beyond)

ENSAMBLING, TESTING AND IMPLEMENTING (DO)

(year 2020-2021)

Rules and regulation
Admission Process
Registration Process
Mobility process

Surveys
Direct student feed-back
Staff-student council
Educational research

MONITORING AND LEARNING (CHECK)

(year 2021-2023)

Pre-pilots
Information Provision
Joint Virtual Administrative Of.
Boards
Rules and regulations
Admission Process
Registration Process



#### NATIONAL LEVEL

- Design and accreditation process. Different interpretation/implementation of the Bologna process. European Approach can work but needs trust and generosity at the national level translated into more flexibility.
- Different rules and regulations systems. Different national funding and fees systems

#### STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Not all the students are prepared for so much innovation, and the academic staff need training and support during the design and during the delivery: educationalist and teaching assistants.
- Diversity of disciplines and cultures
- Different "mental" grading systems

#### **PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

 Joint Virtual administrative office: dealing continuously with the institutional and national differences in the processes





### 5. Whats next and future

# CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHARM-EU QUALITY MODEL

**OUR WISHLIST**: Institutional accreditation of European Universities and not programme accreditation. Done by an EQAR QA and automatically recognized in other countries.

Waiting for the results of the EUniQ project and the European Degree Pilot (CHARM-EU is part ED-AFFICHE, 6 European Alliances, 50 Universities, 22 Ministries involved and 16 Agencies) and the Legal Entity pilot.

In the meantime: Next iteration of the Model needs to include a greater focus on :

- Quality at the level of the Alliance Strategy
- Integrate the Research and Innovation
- Becoming more systematic in the PDCA cycle



CHallenge-driven
Accessible
Research-based
Mobile
European
University

**MOLTES GRÀCIES MUCHAS GRACIAS** FÒRÇA GRÀCIAS **MANY THANKS GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT** HARTELIJK DANK **MERCI BEAUCOUP** NAGYON KÖSZÖNÖM DANKE SCHÖN! TACK SÅ MYCKET **TUSEN TAKK** 

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