Young Universities
for the **Future** of Europe

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE QA SYSTEM FOR UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES

THE YUFE APPROACH

EQAF 2023 - Aveiro
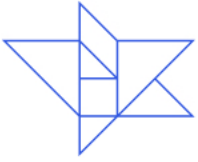
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Overview

- YUFE Alliance

- YUFE Educational Offer

- Internal QA @ YUFE

- Conclusion and Open Questions

YUFE Alliance

YUFE Alliance

Founded on the vision of 10 young, research-intensive universities & 2 non-academic partners

Co-funded by the European Union

Young Universities for the Future of Europe

YUFE Partners

- University of Antwerp
- Maastricht University
- University of Bremen
- NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ
- uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND
- UNIRI
- University of Cyprus
- Sorbonne Nouvelle université des cultures
- University of Essex
- ETS | GLOBAL A subsidiary of Educational Testing Service
- A | THE ADECCO GROUP

YUFE Mission

To bring radical change
by
establishing the leading model of a student-centred, open and inclusive European University
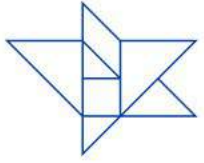
YUFE is more than the sum of its individual parts
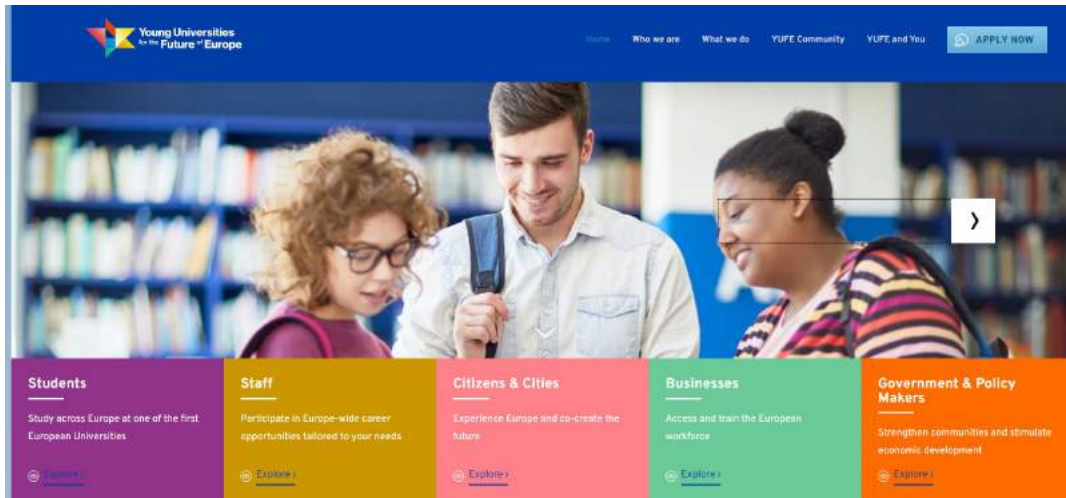
YUFE Educational Offer

YUFE Student Journey

- Students are central and can create their own **personalised learning path**

- Possibility to choose a wide range of **academic courses**

- Large offer of **language courses** in line with attention to multilingualism

- Opportunity to work on **skills development,** rewarded by **YUFE Stars**

New way of studying in Europe!
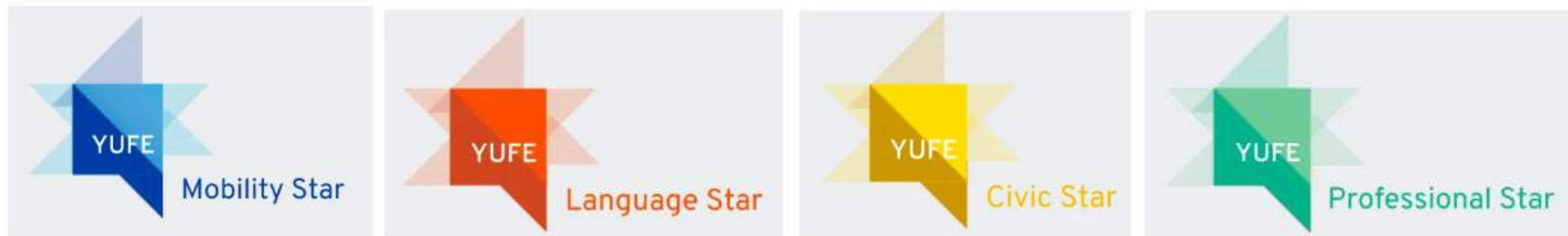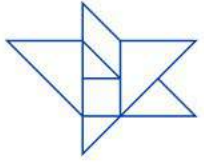
YUFE course catalogue
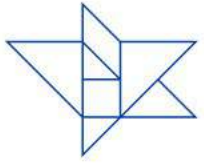
YUFE Student Journey

- Opportunities for **multilateral mobility** at all YUFE partners
  Physical – Virtual – Combination of both

- Students receive a **YUFE Student Journey certificate**
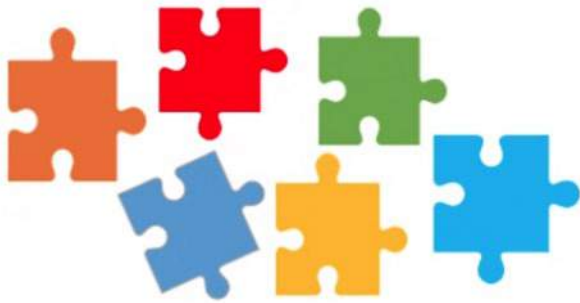 alongside their degree, including **YUFE Stars**

YUFE Mobility Star · YUFE Language Star · YUFE Civic Star · YUFE Professional Star

YUFE Education

Since 2020

Portfolio of courses & activities

Students enrolled at a YUFE university enrich their curriculum with YUFE courses & activities

Since 2023

YUFE Minors

Students enrolled at a YUFE university enrich their curriculum with 30 ECTS modules of YUFE courses, activities & a challenge team
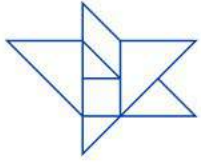
Planned for 2025

YUFE Joint Bachelor

New students enroll for the YUFE Joint Bachelor, an open programme leading to a joint degree

YUFE Education

YUFE Joint Bachelor

- Currently in development – expected to start in academic year 2025/2026

- Alignment with the European Degree label criteria an important element

- Accreditation via the European Approach

- High number of (planned) degree-awarding partners: 8

YUFE Bachelor Scheme

Young Universities for the Future of Europe

1st block ›
- 60 ECTS (1st - 2nd semester)
- On-site courses from one university (where enrolled)
- Online courses from other universities

YUFE Induction

YUFE Core courses

Intercultural and language competences

2nd block ›
- 90 ECTS (3rd - 5th semester)
- Selection of three minors (with 30 ECTS each) in consultation with academic advisor
- Minors taken through hybrid mobility

MINOR 1
Offered by YUFE UNI 1

MINOR 2
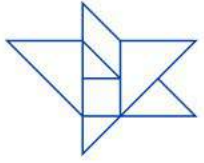Offered by YUFE UNI 2

MINOR 3
Offered by YUFE UNI 3

3rd block ›
- 30 ECTS (6th semester)
- Bachelor thesis research - in consultation with a supervisor
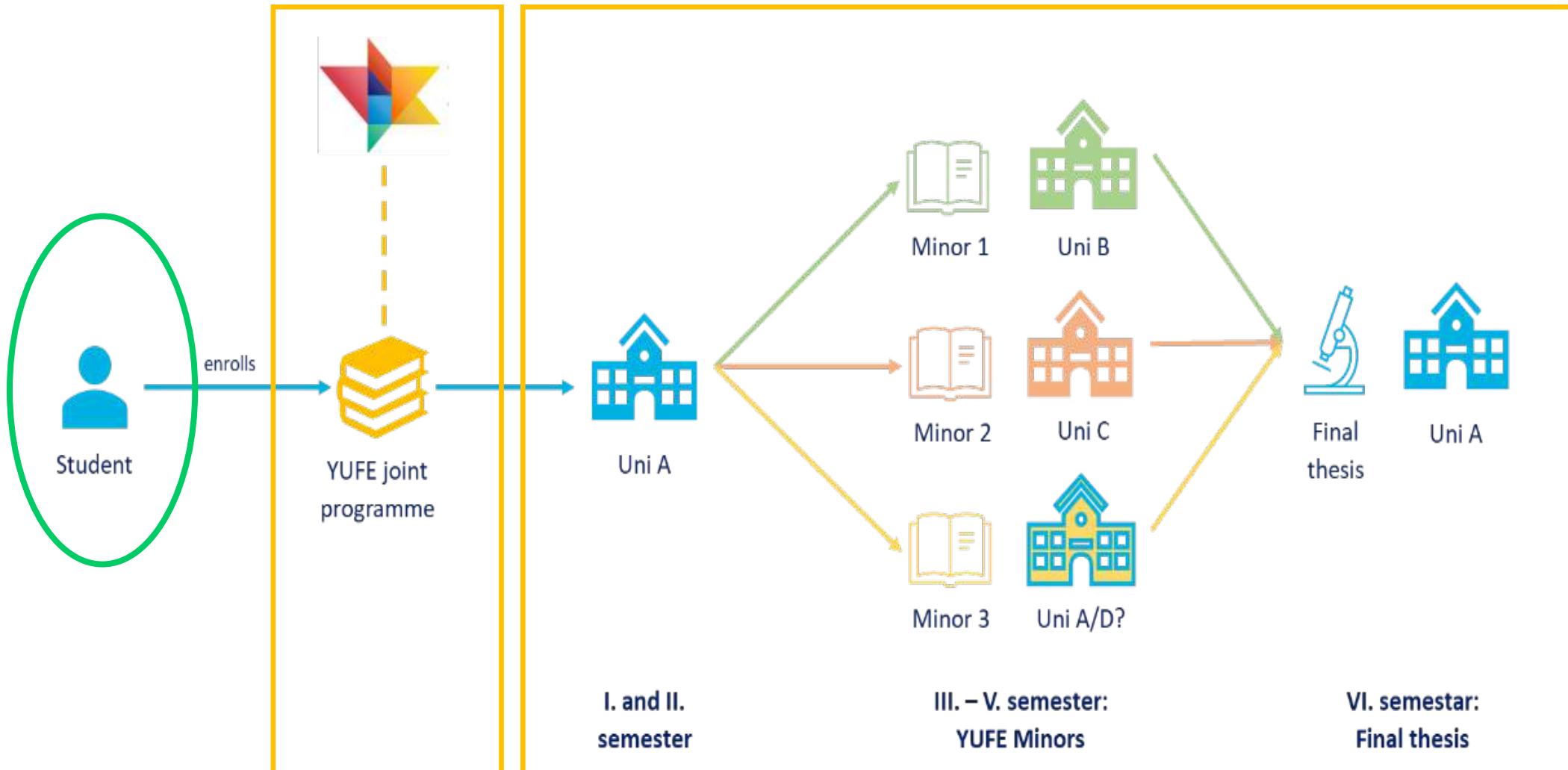- Challenge-based applied research

Research proposal

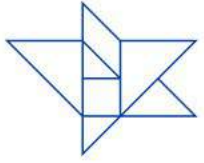Conducting research on-site in local communities (challenge-based)

Bachelor thesis (writing, evaluation, presentation)

Joint YUFE Bachelor - concept

YUFE Education in numbers

1395 students enrolled in YUFE since Summer of 2020

Together they have taken up **4948 online and on-site courses and activities** across Europe
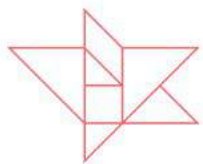

Young Universities for the Future of Europe

YUFE offers in Academic Year 23/24:

- **595 Academic Courses**
- **68 Language Courses**
- **29 Civic Engagement Activities**
- **14 Professional Training Activities**
- **11 YUFE Minor Programmes**
- **15 YUFE Bio Courses**

Co-funded by the European Union

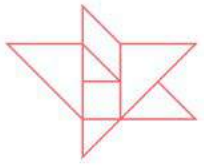# Internal QA @ YUFE

Fundamentals
Implementation

Fundamentals of YUFE QA

YUFE QA Framework

- Foundation for Quality in the YUFE Alliance

- Mapping exercise on internal and external QA

  - Shared vision

  - Basic principles

  - QA dimensions & indicators

- Methodology & Implementation

- Living document

YUFE Quality Assurance Framework

November 2023 | Version 3

Work Package Quality Culture
Ann De Schepper & Liesbeth Opdenacker - University of Antwerp

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Co-funded by the European Union

Maastricht University ↔ Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń ↔ Sorbonne Nouvelle University
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid ↔ University of Antwerp ↔ University of Bremen ↔ University of Cyprus
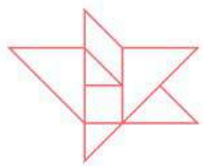University of Eastern Finland ↔ University of Essex ↔ University of Rijeka ↔ ETS Global ↔ The Adecco

Fundamentals of YUFE QA

Basic principles

- Trust and appreciative approach

- Subsidiarity, shared ownership

- Continuous improvement, PDCA

- Transparency
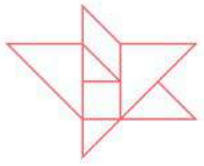
- Stakeholder involvement

Fundamentals of YUFE QA

Three QA dimensions

Existing QA in YUFE Partners

QA of YUFE Open Programmes

QA of YUFE Activities & Services

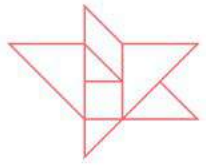# Fundamentals of YUFE QA

Three QA indicators

Accessible information

Stakeholder satisfaction

Stakeholder participation

Various QA instruments

- Surveys
- Focus groups & interviews
- Pre- and post-evaluations
- Reflection documents
- User testing
- Data analytics
- ...

Fundamentals of YUFE QA

QA Governance

Quality Culture Task Force => Internal QA Board

- QA management & development

- 9 QA policy experts - 6 academics - 3 students

- Task Force members serve as liaisons between the YUFE Alliance and their own university and the QA team is in constant communication with coordinators of other working groups

Fundamentals of YUFE QA

QA Governance

External QA Advisory Board

- To be established

- Small & lean: "critical friends"

- Advice & new insights for monitoring quality across YUFE activities
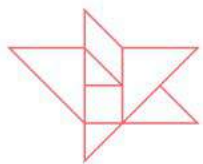
Implementation of YUFE QA

Example: YUFE Minors

- YUFE courses, activities & challenge teams within a YUFE Minor are reviewed by the existing QA mechanisms at the partner institutions

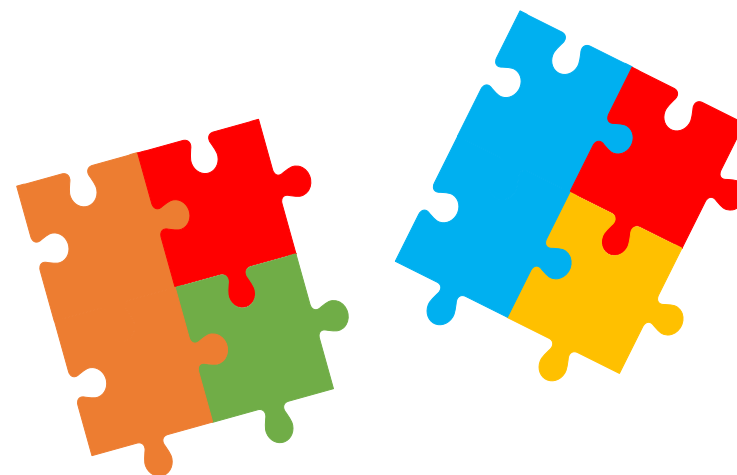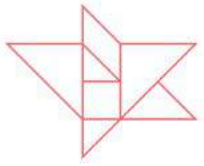- YUFE Minors as a whole are reviewed by YUFE's new QA mechanisms
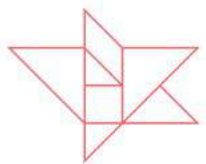
Implementation of YUFE QA

Example: YUFE Minors

- Clear rules on minimal requirements for QA: topics of the evaluation, stakeholders, instruments, timing & frequency
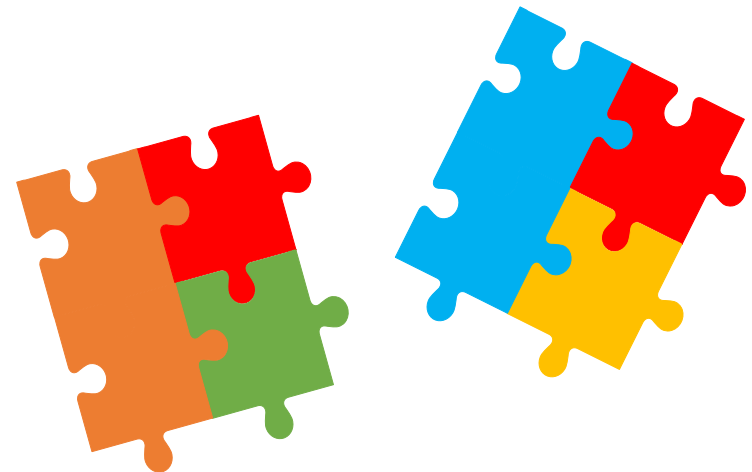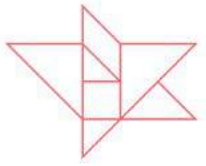
- Clear communication rules: aggregate reporting, conform GDPR

Implementation of YUFE QA

Example: YUFE Minors

Preparatory stage

- Minor design template

- ILOs & course alignment

- Matrix demonstrates student acquisition
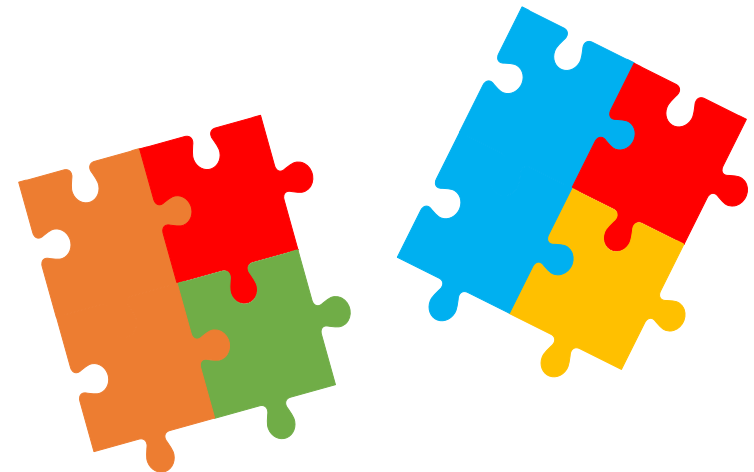
- Prerequisites & admission

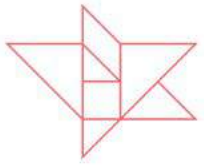- Mobility arrangements

Implementation of YUFE QA

Example: YUFE Minors

Evaluation stage

- Teaching and learning

- ILO achievement

- Student experience

Implementation of YUFE QA

**Example: YUFE Minors**

Evaluation stage

- Quantitative data on enrolment and success

- Qualitative stakeholder feedback

  - Student survey and interviews to evaluate minor as a whole: experience, admission, support, etc.

  - Staff interviews on processes and development with minor coordinators and admission officers

  - Course evaluations at partner institutions to evaluate minor components => *existing QA at partner level*
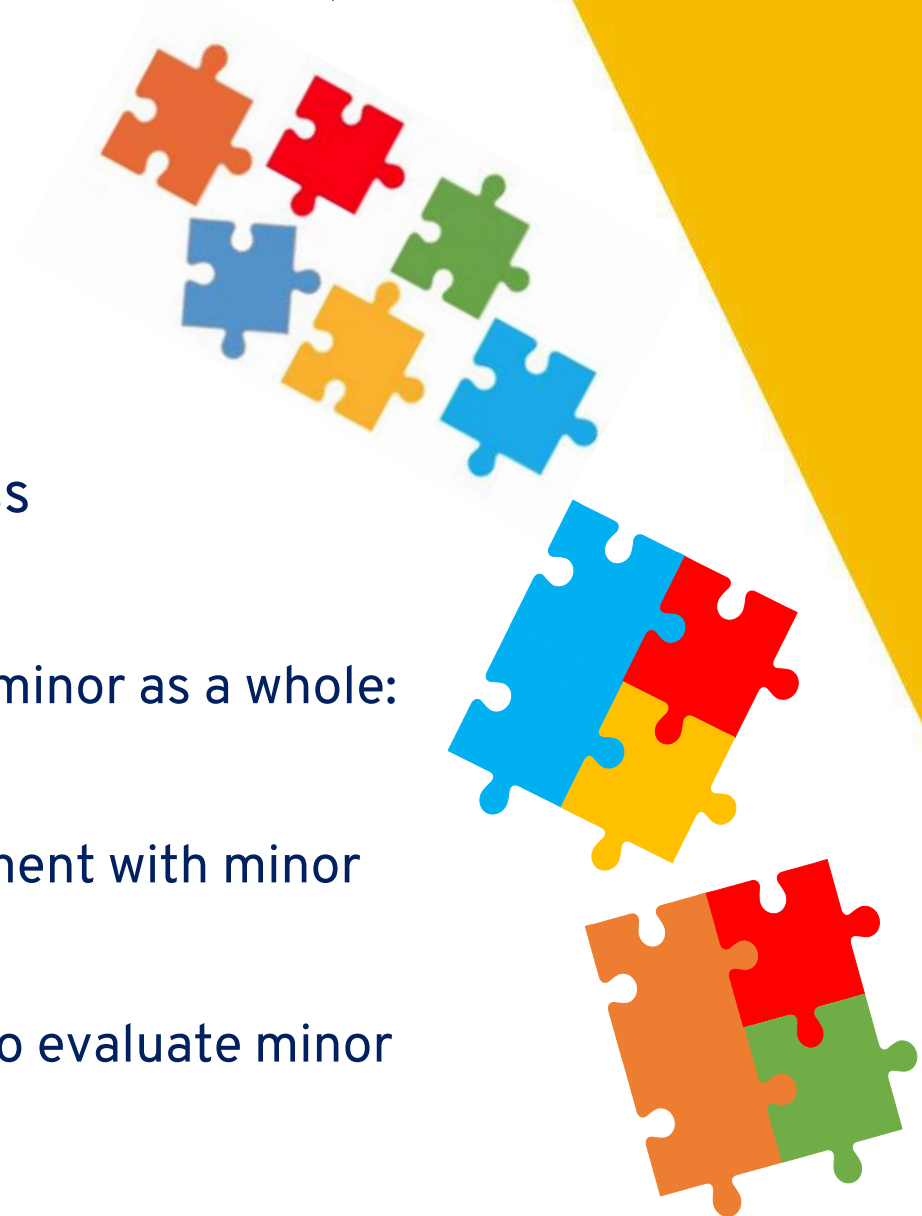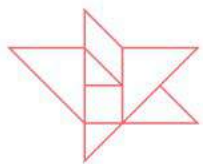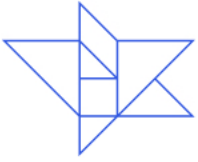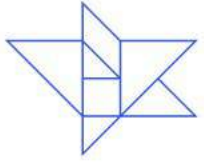
Implementation of YUFE QA
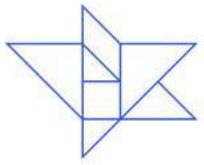
Monitoring & Reporting
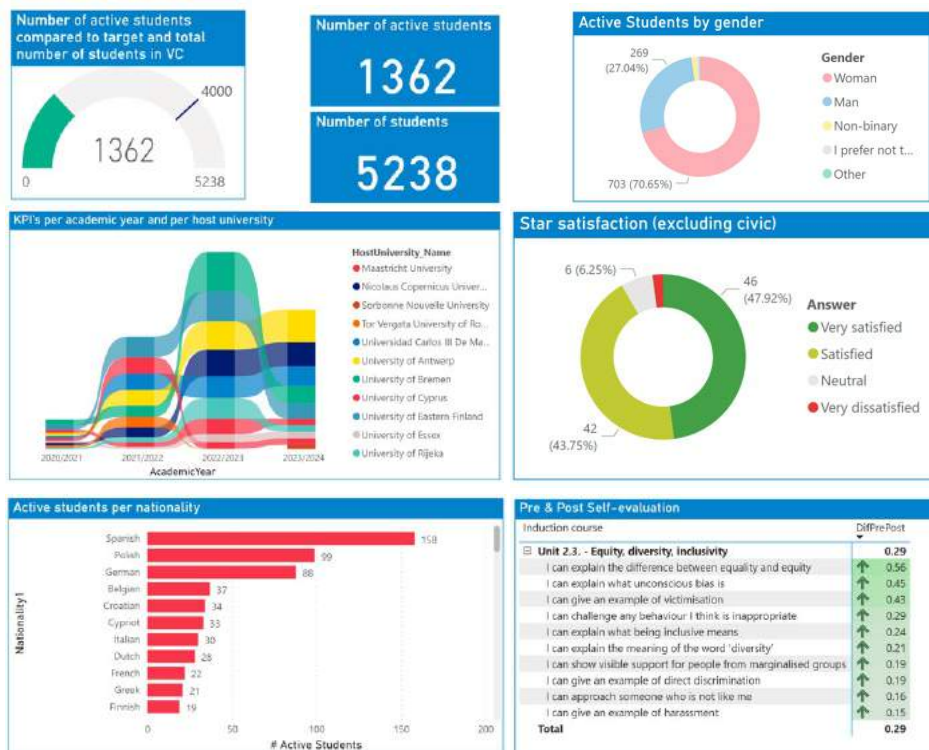
Conclusions

Conclusion

The initial four years of QA collaboration within YUFE partner universities demonstrated **shared values** and **ESG-based QA approaches**

The two QA layers (partner institution vs YUFE) will have to be **fully implemented** towards the **minors** and the **Joint Bachelor**

Conclusion

YUFE has chosen to work with an **open curriculum philosophy**, which creates particular challenges:
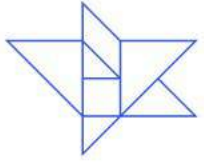
- open curricula are not part of the tradition of most partners
  => high level of flexibility is necessary

- students will take up very different pathways, with, on top of that, programme components offered by different partners
  => assessment of learning will be more complex than usual

Open Questions

Open Questions

- **To what extent are the quality systems within the EHEA sufficiently compatible** to be integrated into a unified system without the need for additional verification?

- **How valid is the proposition of implementing an additional layer of quality control** on existing QA systems?

- **What factors contribute to the sustainability of a QA system** within a European University Alliance?

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