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European Association of Institutions in Higher Education

European Quality Assurance Forum 2017

One size does not fit all: challenges of quality assuring professional higher education

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buildPHE

Outline

- **Intro & Background**

- **Group debate I & plenary discussion**: identifying challenges

- **BuildPHE self-assessment framework**

- **Group debate II & plenary discussion**: addressing challenges

- **Group debate III**: being critical friends

- **Plenary discussion**: common tools vs. diverse HE

- **Closing**

Intro

& BACKGROUND

Professional Higher Education

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Professional Higher Education is a form of Higher Education that offers a **particularly intense integration with the world of work in all its aspects**, including teaching, learning, research and governance and at all levels of the overarching Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area.

* The world of work includes all enterprises, civil society organisations, and the public sector.

ESG 2015

- The ESG apply to **all higher education** offered in the EHEA;

- **Quality assurance should ensure** a learning environment in which the content of programmes, learning opportunities and facilities **are fit for purpose**.

- **processes and procedures are modelled to fit the purposes** and requirements of their contexts;

Group Debate

IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES

Identifying challenges

- Types of HE provision in my institution/system

- QA mechanisms (or part of them) for the different types of HE provision in my institution/system (if any)

- Do those QA mechanisms take into account the specificities of different HE provisions?

- What are the main challenges in addressing the specificities of the different HE provisions?

Plenary discussion

IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES

SELF-ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

BuildPHE project – basic info

- **Erasmus+** Key Action 2 / Strategic Partnership Project

- **Building Professional Higher Education Capacity in Europe** (ref 2015-1-PL01-KA203-0017072)

- **Partners:** PWSZTAR (PL) -lead-, CASPHE (CZ), TTK (EE), SVSS (SI), AZVO (HR), EURASHE (BE), KIC (MT)

- **Duration:** 01-10-2015 – 31-12-2017* *extended*

- **Co-financed** by Erasmus+ Programme of the EU
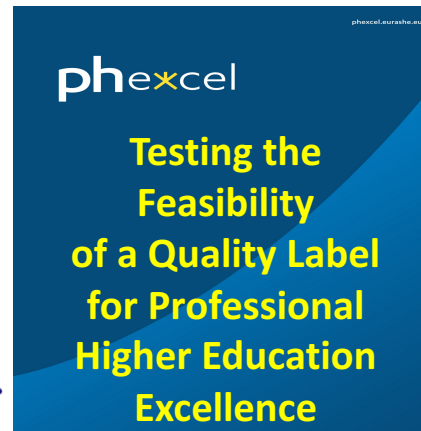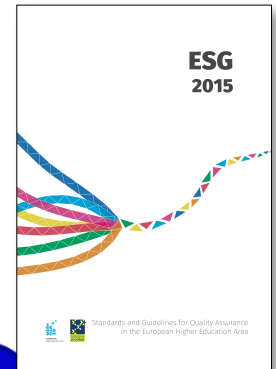
- **Website:** https://buildphe.eu

With the support of the
Erasmus+ programme
of the European Union

BuildPHE project – logic

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2012-2014

Harmonising Approaches to Professional Higher Education in Europe

2013-2015

phexcel
phexcel.eurashe.eu

Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence

ESG 2015

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

2015-2017

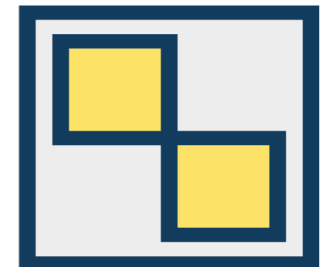**Building Professional Higher Education Capacity in Europe**

buildPHE

Guiding principles:
- Distinctive features of PHE (e.g. strong collaboration with WoW)
- Fit-for-purpose (ESG)
- Context & Institutional Autonomy

BuildPHE project – outline

- Design of **Self-Assessment Framework** and **Methodology**

- Self-Assessment Exercise by **15 Pilot Institutions**

- Design of **Improvement Plans** by Pilot Institutions

- Identification of **Best Practice Examples**

- Development of **On-line Self-Assessment Toolbox**

- Development of **Policy Recommendations**

BuildPHE project – goals

- Support institutions in **developing institutional policies** according to their context, distinctive features and their own mission;
    - → building up quality culture(s) on PHEIs

- Foster & improve **collaboration between Professional HEIs and the world of work**;
    - → engaging with external stakeholders

- Promote reflection and **debate at national level**;
    - → Impact on national policies & practices

- Feed into **European policy development**;
    - → Policy recommendations based on the experience

BuildPHE project – criteria (I)

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Policy and Strategy

1. Policy & Strategy Integration
2. Objectives & Outcomes
3. Regional Integration

Research, Development and Innovation (RDI)

10. RDI Agenda
11. RDI Process
12. RDI Outputs & Outcomes

Teaching and Learning

4. Methods of curriculum development
5. Learning outcomes
6. Content for teaching and learning
7. Learning methodology
8. Learning environment
9. Programme team

BuildPHE project – criteria (II)

For each of 12 Criteria:

- **Explanation** of the criterion

- Suggested **questions** to be used in self-assessment of the institution

- Measurable **indicators** of quality which could be used within the institution

- **Sub-criteria** for self-assessment, to be used for benchmarking

- **Assessment toolbox** - questions

BuildPHE project – criteria (III)

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SELF-REFLECTION FRAMEWORK FOR PHE

The self-reflection framework consists of 12 criteria, each presented with accompanying questions, indicators and sub-criteria which can be used as building blocks for an internal quality assurance policy and/or self-assesment. Use the menus below to explore them.

▼ Select a Criterion

1. **Policy & Strategy Integration**
2. Strategic Objectives & Outcomes
3. Regional Integration
4. Methods of Curriculum Development
5. Learning Outcomes
6. Content for Teaching & Learning
7. Learning Methodology
8. Learning Environment
9. Programme Team
10. RDI Agenda
11. RDI Process
12. RDI Outputs & Outcomes

Policy and Strategy Integration

Institutional Policies and Strategies are defined in collaboration with the world of work.

Guidelines	Questions	Indicators	Sub-Criteria	Good Practices

Explanation of the Criterion

How and to which extend are institutional policies and strategies developed and formulated in collaboration with the WoW. The focus should be on formal engagement of the WoW representatives to the governing and consulting structures within the PHE institution, its unit or programme, as well as informal communication, consulting with the WoW and how systematically it contributes to policy and strategy development.

https://buildphe.eu/quality-framework/c1

BuildPHE project – toolbox (II)

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SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLBOX

Use the tools below to conduct an assessment or review of your institution's connection with the world of work.

▶ **START A NEW SELF-ASSESSMENT**
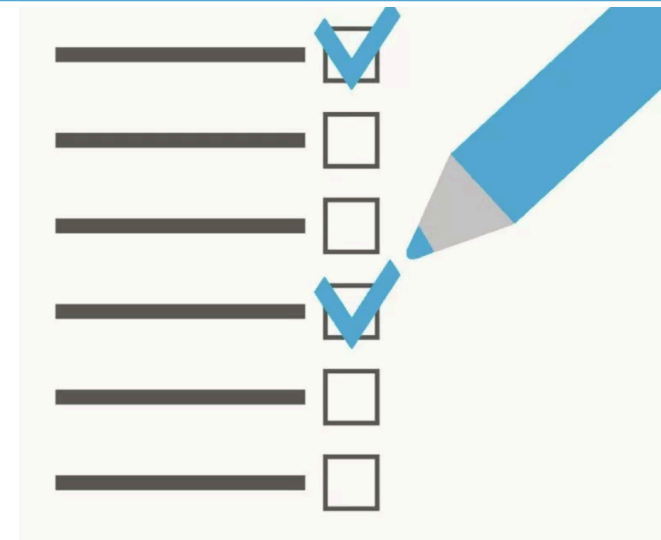Describe your institutional compliance with the BuildPHE criteria.

▶ **MANAGE SELF-ASSESSMENTS**
Complete a previously-started self-assessment, or view already submitted self-assessments.

▶ **CONDUCT A REVIEW**
Review an Institution's Self-Assessment (by invitation)

Group Debate II

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Addressing challenges

- Are the identified challenges being addressed by this criterion?

- To which extend?

- Would it work in my particular institution/system?

Plenary discussion

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Group Debate III

BEING CRITICAL FRIENDS

Being critical friends

- Identifying strengths of the self-assessments framework

- Identifying challenging aspects of the self-assessments framework

- Suggestions for improvement

Plenary discussion

COMMON PRINCIPLES + DIVERSE HE SYSTEMS + DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROVISION

CLOSING

Thank you for your attention!

More Information on the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education

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