A first exploration of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
European Approach?

• Framework to evaluate joint programmes uniformly
  – Set of standards (ESG-proof)
  – Without applying additional national criteria
  – Facilitate integrated approaches to QA

• Adopted in 2015 by ministers of EHEA
European Approach?

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
European Approach?

5. Learning, Teaching and Assessment
6. Student Support
7. Resources
   - staff; facilities
8. Transparency and Documentation
9. Quality Assurance
QA in Flanders

- Shift in QA system 2015 - 2019
  - programme evaluation => institutional evaluation
  - European Approach in Flemish decree
- European Approach compulsory for some programmes that lead to a joint diploma
- EA in Flanders: useful but too binding and checking?
European Approach: pilot

• DocNomads Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Documentary Filmmaking
  – two-year, full time, international graduate programme (120 ECTS)
  – three partner universities:
    • Színház- és Filmművészeti Egyetem (University of Theatre and Film Arts), Budapest, Hungary
    • Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon, Portugal
    • LUCA School of Arts, Brussels, Belgium
• Scope: Programme evaluation with a view to accreditation
• www.vluhr.be/docnomads
European Approach: drafting a manual

Manual for the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

• Based on:
  – Standards for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in the EHEA
  – Manual for External Quality Assurance in Flemish Higher Education
  – New insights

=> pilot manual
=> High level of involvement of stakeholders
European Approach: drafting a manual

• Principles
  – Focus on jointness by involving all partners in the programmes consortium
  – Involving national accreditation organisations
  – A tailor made approach for each assessment
  – A lean and efficient procedural system
European Approach: drafting a manual

• Making choices
  – Format of a SER
  – Providing evidence during the site visit / appendices
  – Level of compliance
  – Composition of the panel
  – Follow-up procedure
  – ...

European Approach: pilot

• Strengths and opportunities
  – Writing a SER
    • Information for the panel
    • Stimulating internal discussions: re-think and re-evaluate
  – Openness to discuss shortcomings (self-critically)
  – Rewarding procedure for the (joint) efforts made
European Approach: pilot

- Weaknesses and difficulties
  - Recognition of the European Approach
  - Differences in terminology
  - Time needed to reach consensus on
    - Budget
    - Equal level of involvement of all partners
European Approach: lessons learned

- Open framework; Room for ‘the story of the joint programme’
- Stimulates internal QA
- One site visit: sufficient information on all locations
- Recognition of the EA is still limited
- Increase of willingness to use the EA voluntary (in Flanders)
- New manual
  - Reduced administrative burden
  - Guidance on writing a SER
  - Collaboration with accreditation agencies
  - Improvement oriented
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