

Towards an Interconnected EHEA by 2030

- Food for Thoughts from a Quality Assurance Perspective -

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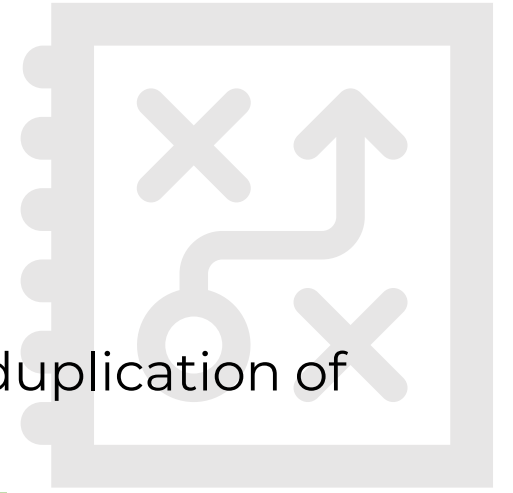
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Quality Assurance as an enabler for an interconnected EHEA?

- Vision: “Interconnected EHEA by 2030, because our **shared frameworks and tools** will continue to facilitate and enhance international cooperation and reform, exchange of knowledge and mobility of staff and students.” (Rome Ministerial Communiqué, 2020)
- **Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESGs)** and other Bologna tools
 - Common denominator: allows for diverse approaches to QA
 - Transparency
 - Trust-building
 - Recognition
 - Allows for internationalization, cooperation and mobility
 - Involves stakeholder

Cross-Border Quality Assurance



- **Obstacle:** Fatigue due to repetitive evaluations or unproductive duplication of reviews
- **Solution:** HEIs can choose a **foreign ESG-compliant QA agency (= EQAR-registered)** that best fits their mission and needs
 - ESGs as common basis across the EHEA
 - Stimulate recognition of degrees and qualifications



European Approach to Quality Assurance for Joint Programmes

- **Joint programmes** have an integrated curriculum, are coordinated and offered jointly by different HEIs and lead to double/multiple degrees or a joint degree
- **Obstacle:** Obligation for external QA and different national legal frameworks
- **Solution:** QA based on EHEA tools without applying additional national criteria
 - “**European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**” adopted by European Ministers responsible for higher education in Yerevan (2015)
 - Based on ESGs and Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area
 - Single evaluation of entire joint programme → Outcome to be accepted in all EHEA countries
 - Focus on integrated approaches, the joint delivery of the programme and the special requirements for mobile students

European Universities Initiative



- **European Universities:** Transnational alliances of HEIs from across the EU that share a long-term strategy, promote European values and identity, strengthen mobility of students and staff, and foster the quality, inclusiveness and competitiveness of European higher education
- **Obstacle:** Obligation for external QA and different national legal frameworks
- **Solution:** Simplify existing QA requirements and reduce burden for European Universities whilst respecting national responsibilities and QA requirements
 - Inspired by the principles of the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes
 - At institutional level: **“European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities”** developed by NVAO

Source:

<https://www.nvao.net/nl/attachments/view/european%20framework%20for%20the%20comprehensive%20quality%20assurance%20of%20european%20universities>

Questions and comments?

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