



European QA Lessons learnt since 2005

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30 January 2014

European Quality Assurance Framework

- QA: one action line in the Bologna Process
- 2005: Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG)
 - Proposed by the E4 Group (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE)
- 2008: European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)

- 2012: Decision to revise the ESG by 2015
 - Need updating taking account of developments since 2005
 - Need clarification

Scope of the current and revised ESG

- Standards and guidelines for quality assurance not quality as such
- Apply to all **higher education** offered in the EHEA regardless of the mode of study or place of delivery
- Quality assurance can serve a variety of purposes: enhancement – accountability

Some principles for QA in the EHEA

- Higher education institutions have primary responsibility for the quality of their provision and its assurance;
- QA responds to the diversity of HE systems, institutions and programmes;
- QA supports the development of a quality culture;
- QA involves stakeholders and takes into account the expectations of all stakeholders and society.

Proposed purposes of the revised ESG

- **a common framework** for quality assurance systems at European, national and institutional level
- **assurance and improvement of quality** of higher education in the European higher education area
- **mutual trust** facilitating recognition and mobility within and across national borders
- **information on quality assurance** in the EHEA

State of the European QA

- Different approaches when creating national quality assurance systems: (programme or institutional) accreditation, evaluations or audits
 - Level of institutional autonomy in creating internal QA systems varies
 - Countries and also institutions are in different phases in implementing institutional as well as national QA systems
- > There does not exist one European QA, but the ESG provide framework for good practice shared by the whole EHEA

Conclusions

- What works?
 - Principle approach gives room to local adaptations
 - Shared principles promote mutual understanding
- What still needs work?
 - Understanding when local adaptations are related to quality and when to traditions
 - Recognition of QA decisions and foreign qualifications