Recognition of programmes accredited by cross border QA procedures

• The legal setting of recognition of programmes and joint programmes in recognition
• The Danish experience in recognising programmes subject to cross border accreditation
• “A European approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes”??
The legal setting of Recognition

The Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) – Council of Europe and UNESCO

Basic rules:
- The right to have a fair recognition of your educational qualifications in another signatory country – establishment of ENIC-NARIC centres
- Recognise a foreign degree at the same level unless the competent recognition authority can prove substantial differences between foreign and similar national programme
- Recognition principles should be based on recognition of learning outcomes and not of equivalence
The legal setting of Recognition

- LRC and QA: “Competent recognition authority should take due account of formal QA systems and results”.
- TNE Programmes must be legally established – providing and awarding institutions must comply with rules in all participating countries
The legal setting of Recognition

• “Competent recognition authorities may make the recognition of joint degrees conditional on all parts of the study programme leading to the degree and/or institutions providing the programme being subject to QA
• All parts and all institutions must be accredited/recognised according to legislation in all participating countries.
• No mentioning of ESG’s, EQAR, Cross-border QA
• Recognition therefore in many countries depending on QA decisions in all participating countries
Danish principles of recognition and cross border QA

• Legislation on joint programmes and Danish programmes offered abroad allows cross border QA by agencies registered in EQAR
• Cross border QA of Danish programmes/institutions is allowed – the foreign QAA must comply with Danish legislation on QA and the final decision is taken by the Accreditation Council.
• Danish QAAs are not allowed to operate abroad on foreign national programmes – only in relation to joint programmes with Danish institutions participation
Danish principles of recognition and cross border QA

• In Denmark: A Bachelor Degree from Italy will be recognised if the Institution/programme is accredited/recognised by a recognised Italian QAA or a foreign QAA if this is done according to Italian legislation
• Recognition of joint degrees: DK accepts single cross border QA of the programme if legally established in participating countries and the QA is done by a formally recognised QAA applying ESGs/registered in EQAR or a formally recognised QAA outside EHEA.
Danish principles of recognition and cross border QA

- A consortium offering a legally established joint programme with 3 fully accredited institutions and one legitimate but not-accredited provider:
  - recognition if all parts of programme is studied in recognised institutions and accredited through cross border QA or any other formally recognised QA arrangement
  - considering recognition if part of the programme is studied in the legitimate non-accredited institution through cross border QA or any other formally recognised QA arrangement
European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

• Too many obstacles in accreditation of joint programmes – national legislation not allowing cross border QA, national regulations stipulating too many regulations in master programmes
• Proposal for procedures for recognition of one single Cross Border QA of joint programmes by EQAR registered QAA – relevant to both institutional and programme accreditation
European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

• A European approach will definitely enhance recognition of joint degrees accredited in a single accreditation procedure by cross border QAAs registered in EQAR
• Will strengthen EHEA cooperation in QA and consolidate mutual trust in QA cooperation
• Cross border QA and single QA procedures are an obvious development following European agreements of ESGs and EQAR register.
• Discussion in DK about status of proposal? Mandatory or guiding principles and good practice?