A collaboration between AEQES and CTI for the evaluation and accreditation of civil engineering programmes in Belgium (FCB) in 2012-2013

AEQES / CTI

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1. why such a joint mission?
2. a brief presentation of both partners: AEQES and CTI
3. phases of the collaboration
4. lessons learnt so far
why such a joint mission?

- official demand coming from the 4 universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium
- collaboration of **AEQES** (a generalist evaluation agency) and **CTI** (an engineering accreditation agency) in order to organize a joint mission
- twofold objective:
  - the evaluation of engineering programmes according to AEQES’ legal requirements
  - their accreditation according to CTI’s criteria
AEQES in a nutshell

- **public sector agency** established by the French community of Belgium in 2002, restructured in 2008
- **4 HE sectors**: universities, university colleges, art schools & conservatoires, adult education centres
- **evaluation of programmes**
- **formative quality evaluation process**, in a context where an authorisation (“habilitation”) is granted *ex ante* by Government decree
- **no scoring, no rankings**
- **ENQA full member since 2011, on EQAR since 2012**
CTI in a nutshell

- **nonprofit organization**, established by the French law in 1934
- **programme accreditation** of engineering degrees in France (compulsory accreditation every six years)
- accreditation of **engineering programmes abroad** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, China, Vietnam and Switzerland).

Results of the accreditation:

- "State admission" of these degrees by the French government
- EUR-ACE label

- **equitable** organization in terms of professional and academic participation.

- member of ENQA, ECA, ENAEE (one of the 8 agencies which can deliver the EUR-ACE label); on EQAR since 2010

AEQES-CTI joint mission 2012/2013
reflecting on motivation

UNIVERSITIES
→ gain of time and money + CTI’s expertise + international visibility

AEQES
→ a domain-specific agency provides a generalist agency an asset in terms of expertise
→ contribute to fight bureaucracy (multilayers processes)
→ analysis of the degree of compatibility between evaluation and accreditation

CTI
→ test the significance and applicability of CTI’s accreditation framework outside France
→ deliver the EUR-ACE label
→ benchmarking of internal processes against a generalist assessment-oriented agency

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phases of the collaboration

Preparatory phase / **December 2009 to January 2011**

Two purposes:
→ to assess the feasibility of the collaboration
→ to agree on a set of common principles

Signature of a formal collaboration agreement/January 2011

Design of the collaboration / **January to December 2011**
Evaluation phase / **January 2012 to September 2013**
Accreditation phase/ **Octobre 2013**
Action plan/ **December 2013**
phases of the collaboration

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Three main issues:

1. **compatibility** of the two national quality assurance systems

2. detection of possible **legal and material barriers** to the collaboration

3. applicability of **CTI’s accreditation framework** to engineering programmes in the FCB.
some methodological aspects

- scope (institutions and programmes)
- common reference framework
- composition of the experts’ panel
- organization of the site-visits
- outcomes of the mission: draft reports, final reports, system-wide analysis, accreditation by the CTI, action plans
- future implications

AEQES-CTI joint mission 2012/2013
Four universities concerned

Catholic University of Louvain (UCL)
Free University of Brussels (ULB)
University of Liège (Ulg) (including Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of Gembloux – FUSAGx)
University of Mons (UMons)

Four engineering programmes (BA + MA) in the field of agronomic sciences and biological engineering
Fifteen (BA + MA) in the field of engineering sciences

Total = 46 programmes

AEQES-CTI joint mission 2012/2013
• 50% CTI and 50% AEQES, a total of 32 experts
• In terms of profile
  - 39% of peers
  - 26% of students
  - 22% of experts (industry)
  - 9% of peers/industry
  - 3% educationalist
• In terms of nationality: 2 from Switzerland, 1 from Luxemburg, 8 from Belgium (25%) and 21 from France (65%)
site-visits organisation

- 3 visits of six days and 1 visit of 3 days
- a permanent panel (attended all the visits): chair + 3 CTI rapporteurs + educationalist + expert of the industry + students
- additional domain experts (according to each HEI’s provision)
- common interviews + parallel interviews + debriefing (prior preparatory meetings)

AEQES-CTI joint mission 2012/2013
4 site-visits with a mixed AEQES/CTI panel

System-wide analysis on [www.aeqes.be](http://www.aeqes.be) + link on CTI website

Follow-up action plans on [www.aeqes.be](http://www.aeqes.be)

draft reports + right of reply = final reports on [www.aeqes.be](http://www.aeqes.be)

Accreditation results

- CTI’s website
- Official journal of the French Republique
- ENAEE’s website

AEQES-CTI joint mission 2012/2013
accreditation results

- **Maximum accreditation duration (6 years):**
  23 programmes - 51% (30% with a progress report)

- **3 years’ accreditation:**
  15 programmes - 33%

- **No accreditation:**
  7 programmes - 16%

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Main reasons for no accreditation:

- Management capacity and independence of the management unit of the programme
- Some lacks in the competences approach:
  - Chain targeted professional sectors-objectives of the programme-deployment of the different modules not clearly visible
  - Transferable skills not sufficiently included in the design of the cursus
- Not a clear enough definition of the professional orientation of the programme.
lessons learnt so far

- learning process and space of trust
- programme vs. institutional assessment
- attitudes and behaviours
- review reports
- scope of the accreditation: *admission par l’état* + EUR-ACE label
- role of the domain experts vs. permanent experts
- a more international panel, with the clarification on the difference between EUR-ACE and French framework
- instructions for the programme experts
  - regarding attitudes and behaviours
  - regarding role of the domain experts
- reporting
- phasing the follow-up
implications and future developments

- a second phase of the collaboration for non-university (professional oriented) engineering programmes.
- currently, in the process of planning the new collaboration (number of site visits, composition of the panels, etc.)
implications and future developments (2)

- recognition of accredited engineering degrees:
  - degrees officially recognized in France (Titre d’ingénieur diplômé)
  - professional and academic recognition in Europe through the EUR-ACE label
  - what would be the **impact** over the student and professional flow among the two countries (Belgium and France)?
• Increased notoriety of the two agencies (in Europea and inside each country)
  • CTI and AEQES: Increasing presence in European conferences
  • CTI: scope of the exercise (whole population of civil engineering degrees in Belgium) has increased notoriety of CTI’s activities

• A real experience for illustrating the European dimension at the scale of a whole national system
Thank you for listening and participating

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