



European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

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Mandate

- Bucharest Communiqué 2012
 - “recognise quality assurance decisions of EQAR-registered agencies on joint and double degree programmes.”
 - “examine national rules and practices relating to joint programmes and degrees as a way to dismantle obstacles [...]”

Current Situation

- Three main approaches to external QA of joint programmes:
 - Several (“fragmented”) national reviews
 - Joint review by several QA agencies
 - Single review by one QA agency
- Frameworks for joint and single reviews have been tested (e.g. JOQAR), but have to combine many national criteria, thus cumbersome and complicated
- Fragmented reviews often simple, but do not reflect the “jointness” of the programme
- Quality review of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses (by Commission) is joint, but does not replace national QA

Current Situation (2)

- National criteria used in joint/single reviews
 - Can be contradictory (e.g. Degree Title)
 - Not always quality-related
 - Make sense nationally, but are difficult to understand for foreign peers and agencies
 - Joint degrees more difficult than other joint programmes, in some countries even virtually impossible (Is external QA the only place to enforce national legal provisions?)
- **Recommendation: one agreed, consistent European framework for external QA of joint programmes**

Core Elements

- Standards for QA of Joint Programmes
 - Based on QF-EHEA, ECTS and ESG (part 1 mainly)
 - Applied for specific nature of joint programmes:
“jointness”, joint responsibility, joint development and joint provision

(As it stands, in line with current as well as new ESG.)

3. Study Programme [ESG 1.2]

3.1 Curriculum: The structure and content of the curriculum should be fit to enable the students to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

3.2 Credits: The ECTS should be applied properly and the distribution of Credits is clear.

3.3 Workload: A joint bachelor programme will typically amount to a total student workload of 180-240 ECTS-credits; a joint master programme will typically amount to 90-120 ECTS-credits and should not be less than 60 ECTS-credits at second cycle level (credit ranges according to the FQ-EHEA); for joint doctorates there is no credit range specified. The workload and the average time to complete the programme should be monitored.

Core Elements

- Procedure for QA of Joint Programmes
 - Based on ESG (part 2 mainly)
 - Again, specified for joint programmes:
self-evaluation report, panel composition, site visit(s)
etc.

(As it stands, in line with current as well as new ESG.)

Impact

- Fosters implementation of Joint Degree Programmes
- Agencies don't have to adapt their (national) approaches



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