

Born European: IEP and cross-border quality assurance

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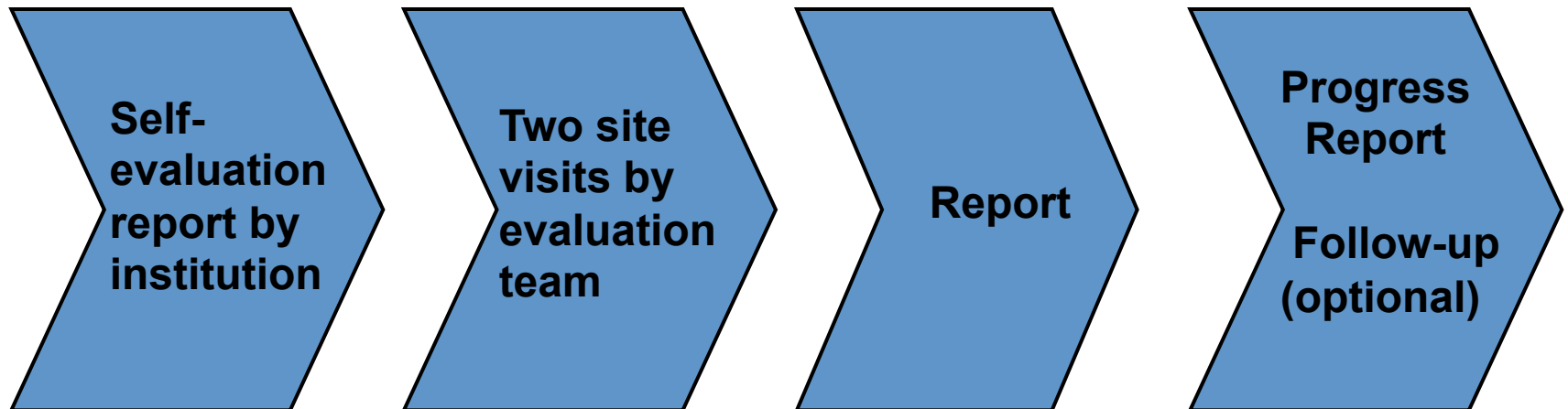
Some facts

- An independent membership service of EUA
- Offers institutional evaluations since 1994
- Nearly 350 evaluations in 45 countries (Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia)
- 230 evaluations since the EU recommendation in 2006
- Evaluations on request:
 - from individual universities
 - from governmental bodies or National Rectors Conferences
- Full member of ENQA and INQAAHE, listed in EQAR

Distinctive features

- Independent from national agencies or government evaluations and accreditation programmes
- Consistent with ESG, everywhere we work
- Not for profit
- Peer-review, offering a European and international perspective
- An international pool of experts trained annually with focus on evaluation skills and emerging European and international trends
- Improvement oriented: recommendations to improve the strategy of the institution

The evaluation process



Four questions

What is the institution trying to do?

- *Mission, aims, objectives and their appropriateness, how the university sees itself locally, nationally, internationally*

How is the institution trying to do it?

- *Processes, procedures, practices in place and analysis of their effectiveness*

How does it know that it works?

- *Feedback systems in place, in particular QA mechanisms (attention to ESG since 2005)*

How does the institution change in order to improve?

- *Strategic planning, capacity and willingness to change*

Challenges experienced by IEP

- National and historical specificities, boundaries, legal frameworks
- Linguistic barriers
- Financial concerns
- The need for the the institution to be sufficiently strategic-oriented to produce a good self-evaluation report and truly benefit from IEP
- Some institutions undergo evaluations only for prestige and “IEP evaluated” label

Benefits from the IEP experience: institutions

Based on feedback from institutions:

- A context-driven approach
- An effective tool that may complement national quality assurance procedures
- A truly external review without preconceptions, employing “outside the box” thinking
- A European perspective, learning from peers acting as “critical friends”
- Increased self-confidence of an institution as an international actor

Impact of the IEP experience: EHEA

- Promote European understanding of QA and higher education
- Contribute to a coherent and flexible external quality assurance system for Europe, based on ESG
- Disseminate good governance practices across borders
- Inspire a number of European agencies interested in IEP methodology

Benefits from cross-border QA for IEP

- Continuous improvement of its own processes
- New opportunities for collaboration (e.g. going beyond Europe; coordinated evaluations)
- Strengthened international co-operation and networking

Thank you