

# *Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE)*

## Quality assurance of the educational offer

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EQAR Members' Dialogue

Prague, 8-9 December 2022

## YUFE Partners

- 

University  
of Antwerp
- 

Maastricht University
- 

University  
of Bremen
- 

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS  
UNIVERSITY  
IN TORUŃ
- 

uc3m | Universidad  
Carlos III  
de Madrid
- 

UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND
- 

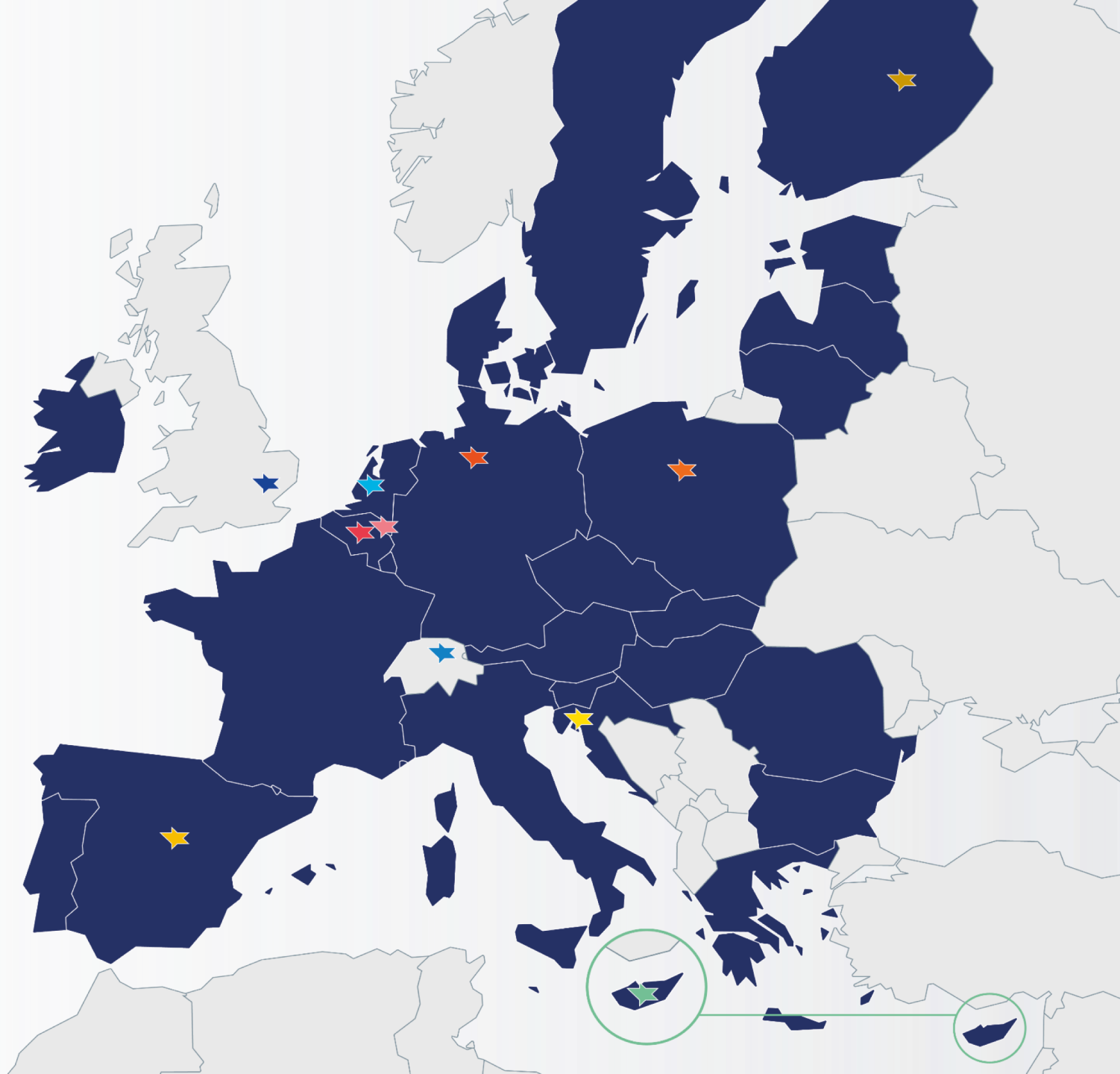
UNIRI
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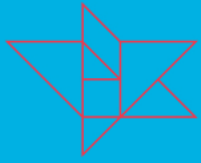
University  
of Cyprus
- 

University of Essex
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THE ADECCO GROUP





# YUFE educational offer scheme

**YUFE  
Bachelor**

- Students enrol in a new study programme
- Based on open and flexible curriculum with high degree of learner autonomy and integration of YUFE Minors
- Compatibility with the European Degree label to be tested

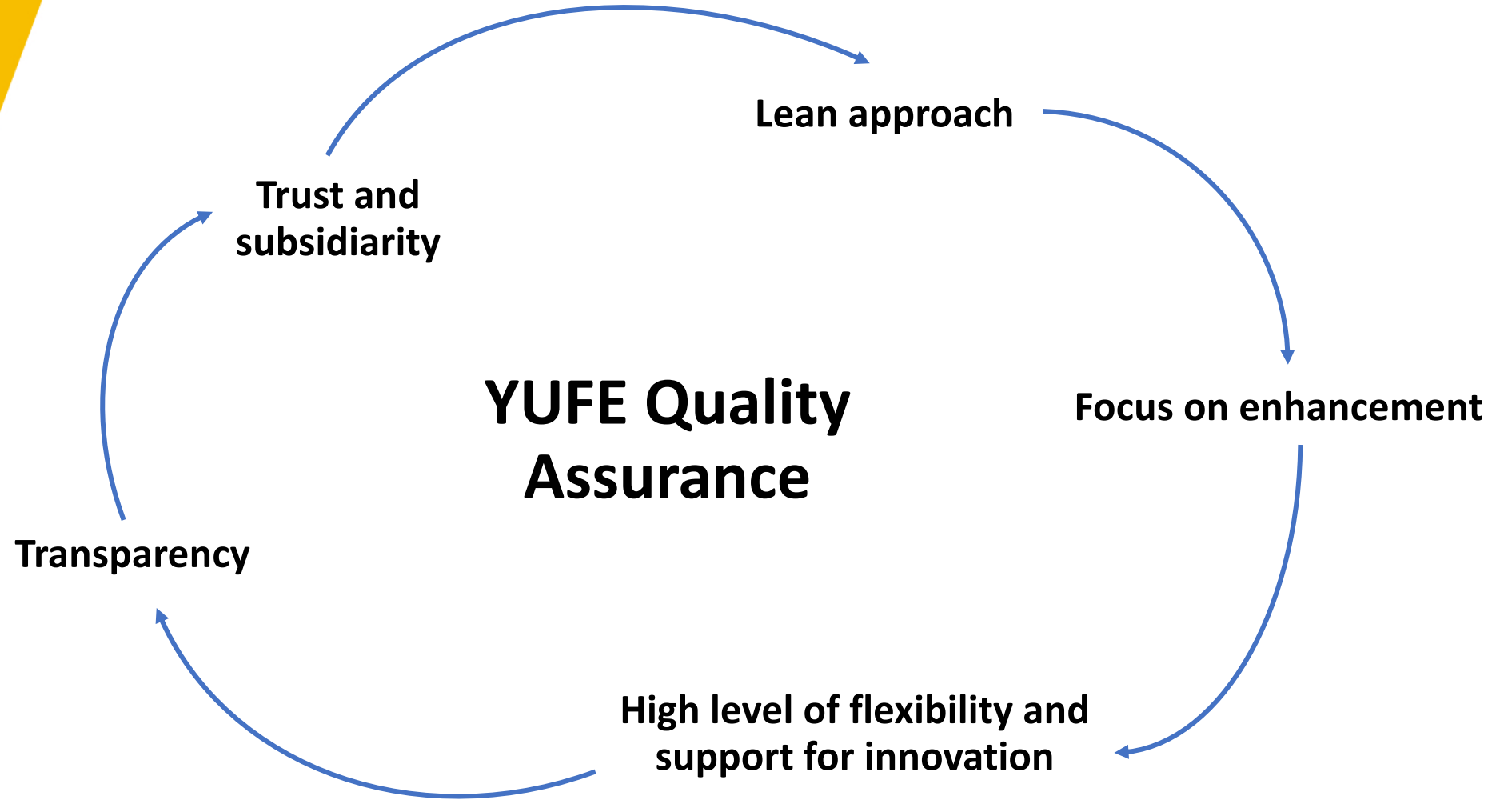
**YUFE Minors**

- Students of existing study programmes enrol in these 30 ECTS modules which also include applied challenge-based projects
- These programmes combine content from multiple universities, through simultaneous on-site and online offer

**Single courses/activities**

- Can be taken up within the *YUFE Student Journey* programme
- Students of existing study programme enrol in courses/activities at other partner universities in order to enrich their curriculum with academic courses, language courses and extracurricular activities

# Fundamental principles of YUFE QA







## Example: YUFE Minors



- YUFE Minor as a whole (module, unit)
- **This is reviewed by YUFE's QA mechanisms**



- Courses/activities/projects available within a YUFE Minor
- **These are not reviewed nor assessed by YUFE's QA mechanisms**

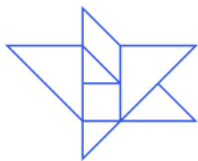
# Implementation of YUFE QA



# Methods and tools

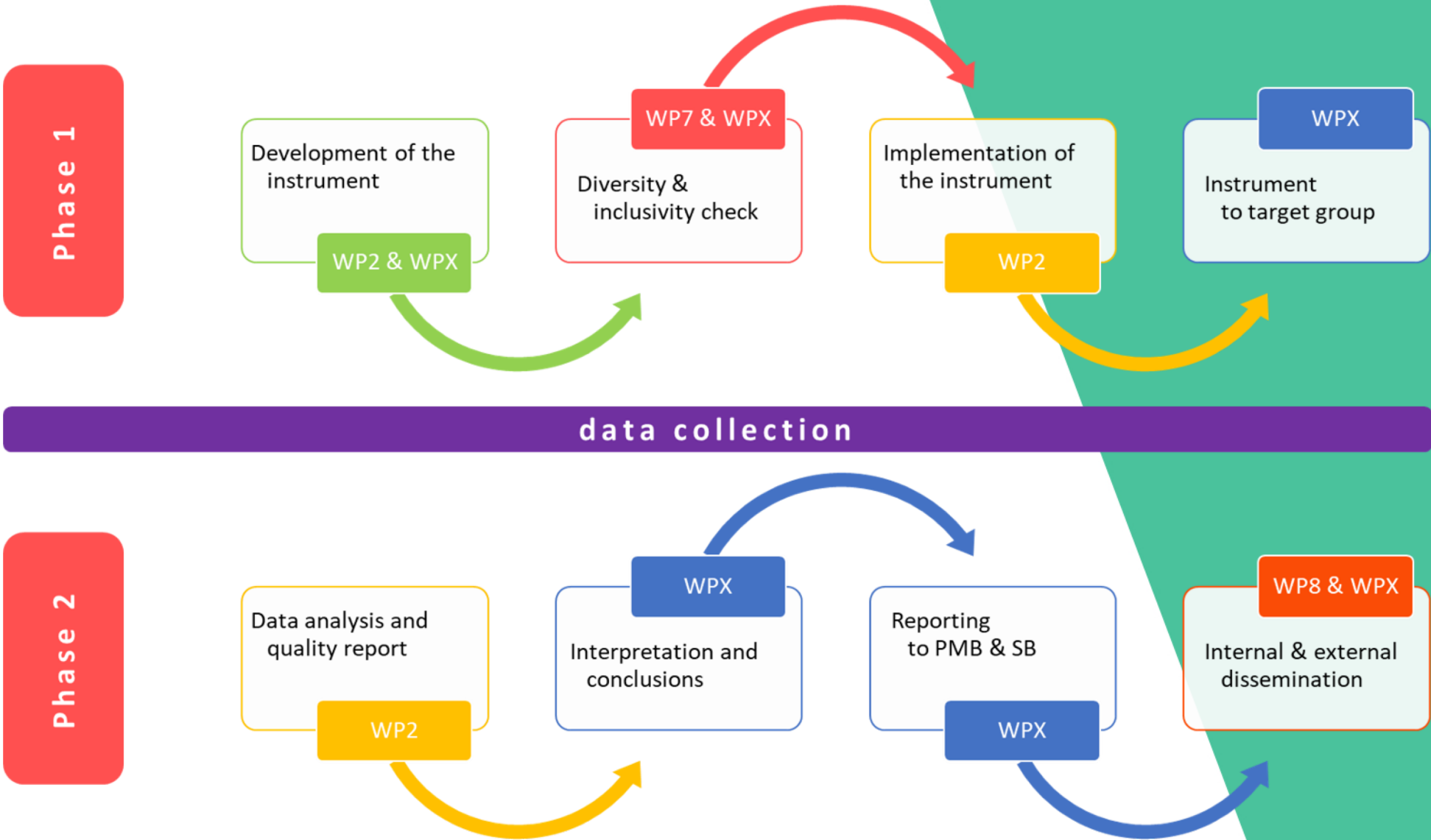
- 1) **Transversal integration between QA team and other working groups (e.g. Work Packages):**
  - YUFE QA Framework as an overarching quality document
  - QA team representatives in constant communication with coordinators of other working groups
- 2) **Surveys for different types of users**
- 3) **Focus groups**
- 4) **Elementary data analytics**
- 5) **External QA: participation in EUniQ project**

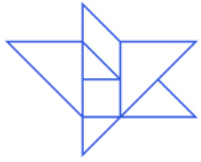




# YUFE QA Framework

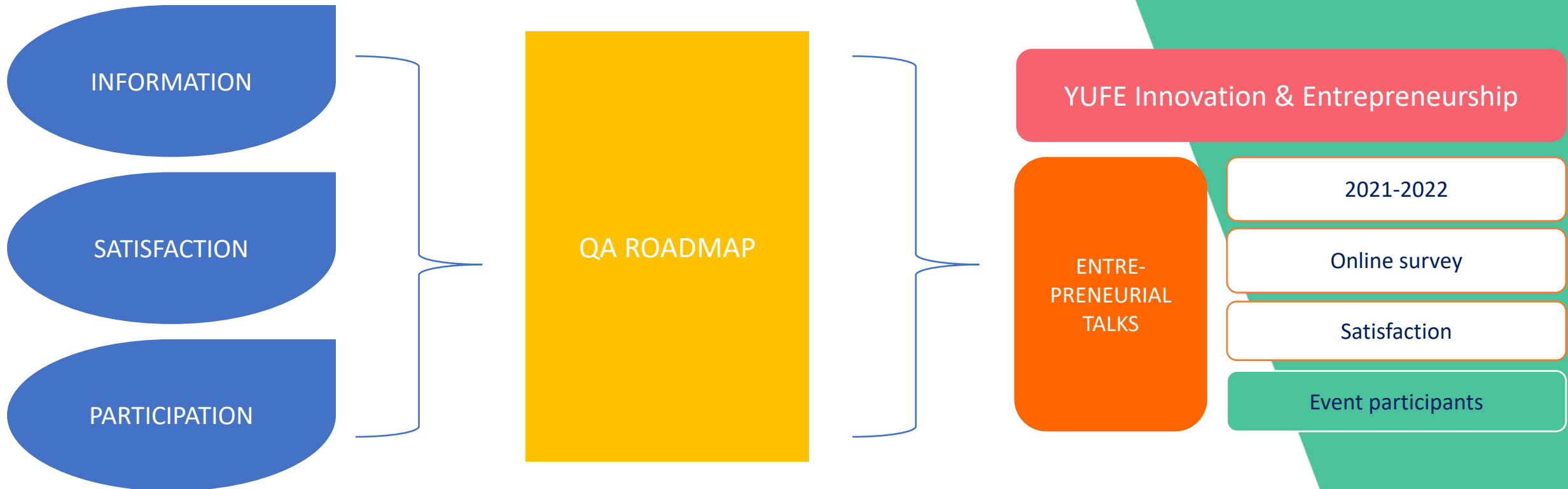
## Workflow





# Example: YUFE Innovation & Entrepreneurship

## LEAN Quality Process



# **YUFE QA and the European Degree label**



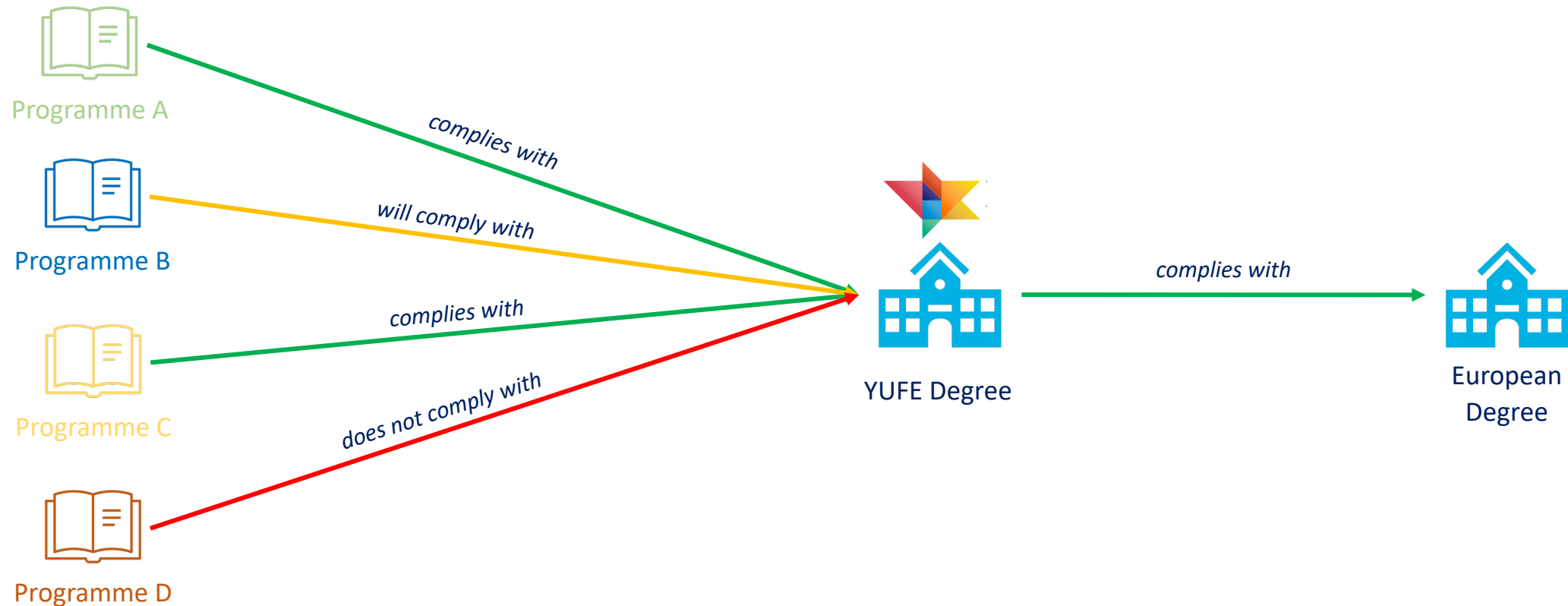
# European Degree label project - *FOCI*

- Joint project between three European University Alliances (YUFE, ECIU, EPICUR) and numerous associated partners – stakeholder organisations (students, national authorities, labour market organisations, civil sector...)
- Fundamental idea: explore how to ensure that the European Degree label criteria is fit for purpose, but also how existing and future joint programmes can adapt to these criteria
- The consortium enthusiastic about additionally also exploring how the criteria can be applied to other educational models besides full joint study programmes -> *what does it mean for an educational offer to be truly „European“?*



# YUFE Degree label

- Internal YUFE label – answers to the question *what does it mean for an educational offer to be „YUFE“?*
- Complementary (in the future) with the European Degree label





# YUFE Bachelor

- Currently in development – expected to start in academic year 2024/25
- Alignement with the European Degree label criteria an important element
- Accreditation via the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
- High number of (planned) degree-awarding partners: 7



## YUFE Bachelor Scheme

### 1<sup>st</sup> block >

- 60 ECTS (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> semester)
- On-site courses from one university (where enrolled)
- Online courses from other universities

YUFE Induction

YUFE Core courses

Intercultural and language competences

### 2<sup>nd</sup> block >

- 90 ECTS (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> semester)
- Selection of three minors (with 30 ECTS each) in consultation with academic advisor
- Minors taken through hybrid mobility

MINOR 1  
Offered by YUFE UNI 1

MINOR 2  
Offered by YUFE UNI 2

MINOR 3  
Offered by YUFE UNI 3

### 3<sup>rd</sup> block >

- 30 ECTS (6<sup>th</sup> semester)
- Bachelor thesis research - in consultation with a supervisor
- Challenge-based applied research

Research proposal

Conducting research on-site in local communities (challenge-based)

Bachelor thesis (writing, evaluation, presentation)





## European Degree label – future development

- Need to fine-tune the European Degree label criteria: should neither be too ***exclusive*** nor too ***inclusive***.
- European Degree (label) needs to become an additional incentive for continuous enhancement, internationalisation, transformation and attractiveness of European HEIs. This will only be possible if **stakeholder relevance** and **fitness for purpose** is ensured.
- In the long term, the European Degree (label) methodology needs to be **broadened or complemented** by elements which include other types of transnational HE provision, besides the full joint programmes -
  - > especially in line with development of micro-credentials / smaller units of learning focusing on all types of life-long learners
- Interplay between assessment of compliance with the European Degrees (label) criteria and external QA of European Universities?



# External QA of ED and EUAs

- Question of compliance with the European Degree (label) criteria -> analogous to **programme accreditation**
- What if we set up a system analogous to **institutional accreditation**?



A European Degree (label) is awarded to programmes which are delivered by a certain type of entities (e.g. European Universities)

- This would require a reliable system of external QA or recognition of such entities -> good progress already made within the EUniQ project.
- Benefits:
  - The question of *what does it mean to be a European University* moves away from project-based applications towards a robust system of external systemic recognition.
  - Unique added value and a stronger sense of purpose both for the European Degree and European Universities
  - Clarity and transparency (especially for stakeholders – primarily students)
  - No overlap/redundancy towards already existing level of external QA -> complementarity

# Thank you!

**WEB**  
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