



Best practices: Quality Assurance and Recognition

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Quality Assurance

Good Practice

Joint **internal** quality assurance procedure which addresses all aspects of “jointness” of the programme explicitly, and all specific challenges (admission, didactics, assessment, support services)

Take joint responsibility!

Develop joint standards, procedures and structures!

Analyse outcomes at consortium level!

Quality Assurance

External quality assurance in the EHEA is based on the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA” (ESG):

- Pre-defined standards (not subject specific)
- Self-evaluation
- Peer Review (incl. students)
- Site Visit
- Panel Report, published

Range of approaches from Quality Audit to Programme Accreditation

Quality Assurance

- Three main approaches to **external** quality assurance of joint degree programmes in the EHEA:
 - 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, but have to combine national criteria, thus cumbersome and complicated in particular in accreditation.
- Fragmented reviews often do not reflect the “jointness” of the programme, or even the whole programme..

Quality Assurance

Good Practice

- Joint review by several QA agencies
- Single review by one QA agency

Quality Assurance

New:

In 2015 ministers adopted the “European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes” in order to dismantle obstacles for implementing these programmes.

- Relevant mainly for countries with compulsory programme accreditation.

Quality Assurance

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Current situation in the EHEA

- National criteria used in joint/single reviews
 - Can be contradictory (e.g. Volume of Credit)
 - Not always quality-related (Degree Title)
 - Make sense nationally, but are difficult to understand for foreign peers and agencies

- Recommendation: one agreed, consistent European framework for external QA of joint programmes

Quality Assurance

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Core elements

- Standards for quality assurance of Joint Programmes
 - Based on “5 Regular Standards” plus QF-EHEA, ECTS and ESG
 - Applied for specific nature of joint programmes: “jointness”, joint responsibility, joint development and joint provision

Quality Assurance

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

3. Study Programme

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...

Quality Assurance

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Core elements

- Procedure for QA of Joint Programmes
 - Based on ESG
 - Again, specified for joint programmes: joint self-evaluation report, panel composition with members from the respective countries, site visit(s) etc.

Recognition

Recognition of modules/credits etc among partners in the consortium must not be an issue!

The legal status of the partners in the consortium needs to be clarified before implementing the programme. The Joint degree can be awarded only by partners that are legally entitled to award the degree!

The joint degree programme must be recognized in the national frameworks. There might be specific regulations!

http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ESG_endorsed-with-changed-foreword.pdf

http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/European-Approach-QA-of-Joint-Programmes_Yerevan-2015.pdf

[http://www.enqa.eu/indirme/papers-and-reports/workshop-and-seminar/ENQA wr 19.pdf](http://www.enqa.eu/indirme/papers-and-reports/workshop-and-seminar/ENQA_wr_19.pdf)

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