

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (2nd revision)

Structural Reform WG, Gent, 9/10 December 2013

Colin Tück <colin.tueck@eqar.eu>

- **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 [...]”
- **BFUG work programme 2013-2017**
 - “Develop a policy proposal for a specific European accreditation approach for Joint programmes, which should be applied to all those Joint programmes that are subject to compulsory programme accreditation at national level.”
- BFUG commissioned a small expert group (Mark Frederiks NL, Achim Hopbach ENQA, Andrejs Rauhvargers LV, Colin Tück EQAR), discussion in Working Groups on Structural Reforms & Mobility and Internationalisation in Dec & Jan

- **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 [...]”
- **BFUG work programme 2013-2017**
 - “Develop a policy proposal for a specific European accreditation approach for Joint programmes, which should be applied to all those Joint programmes that are subject to compulsory programme accreditation at national level.”
- BFUG commissioned a small expert group (Mark Frederiks NL, Achim Hopbach ENQA, Andrejs Rauhvargers LV, Colin Tück EQAR), discussion in Working Groups on Structural Reforms & Mobility and Internationalisation in Dec & Jan

Current Situation



- Three main approaches to external QA:
 - 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. # of ECTS Master thesis)
 - Make sense nationally, but are difficult to understand to foreign peers and agencies
 - Not always quality-related
 - Is external QA the only place to enforce national legal provisions?
- Joint degrees more difficult than other joint programmes, in some countries even virtually impossible
- **Recommendation:** one agreed, consistent European framework for external QA of joint programmes

Changes revision 1 » 2



- Applicable to all joint programmes
 - Irrespective of whether joint or multiple degree
- All types of quality assurance
 - Not only accreditation at programme level, but also evaluation, accreditation or audit covered
 - Language and concepts adjusted where needed
 - More clear explanation how European approach could be used in different scenarios
- Range of specific issues addressed

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

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

Applicability

