

EHEF 2009 Symposium

Thailand – EU cooperation in higher education: common interests and shared commitments, Bangkok 30 October 2009

Collaboration in quality assurance between Thailand and the EU

Achim Hopbach
President of ENQA

Regional quality assurance: the European example

“Quality is at the heart of the setting up of the European higher education Area” (Bologna Process: Berlin Communiqué 2003)

Quality assurance is crucial for internationalization of higher education:

- **providing impartial and transparent information on quality of programmes and institutions**
- **Serving as basis for (mutual) recognition of degrees**

Bologna Process: Bergen Communiqué, 19 Mai 2005:

Ministers “adopt standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area...”, which are “designed to be applicable to all higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies in Europe, irrespective of their structure, function and size, and the national system in which they are located” (ESG p 12) drafted by ENQA EUA, EURASHE, ESU

➤ Common understanding of quality assurance

Based on “The-Four-Stage-Model” as developed since the Nineties: internal evaluation, external evaluation by peers, publication of reports, follow-up procedure

ESG part I: Internal quality assurance

Cyclical reviews, stakeholder involvement, Quality of programmes, staff, assessment procedures...

ESG part II: External quality assurance

Cyclical review, predefined standards, stakeholder involvement, robustness, enhancement orientation, publicity

ESG part III: Quality assurance agencies

Independence, recognition by public body, stakeholder involvement, predefined standards, internal qa, cyclical external review

Building trust beyond the EHEA/between regions through

- **sharing information/learning from each other**
- **cooperation in projects and joint quality assurance procedures**
- **applying common principles**

Good basis:

- **ESG in Europe**
- **Chiba Principles in Asia**

Actions:

Providing opportunities for mutual learning

Conducting joint qa processes (in joint programmes)

Quality assurance in Joint programmes

Problem:

Joint-Programmes have to be accredited several times (in each HE system, due to national regulations)

Aim:

Reduction of workload for the institutions, and compliance with national regulations at the same time

Solutions:

- **Cooperation of agencies**
- **Mutual recognition of quality assurance decisions**

Basis and European Experience:

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

- **ENQA: The Transnational European Evaluation Project II (TEEP II)**
- **EUA: European Masters New Evaluation Methodology (EMNEM)**
- **ECA: Principles for the accreditation of joint programmes**
- **UNESCO/OECD: Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education**

Focus on: Responsibilities, Dimension of commonality

International cooperation of agencies

3 Versions

- Joint procedure, separate decisions
 - One procedure, „dual use“ of the outcomes
 - Two procedures with extensive mutual recognition of decisions
-
- Best solution depends on legal frameworks
 - High level of co-ordinating work in every single case!

Ideal solution:

A joint quality assurance process for joint programmes which adheres to the international standards and takes into account the specificities adequately.

Just like a joint programme needs a joint responsibility, there must be a joint responsibility for the quality assurance

Thank you for your attention

Achim Hopbach
hopbach@akkreditierungsrat.de
www.enqa.eu

ESG: www.enqa.eu/pubs_esg.lasso

TEEP II: www.enqa.eu/projectitem.lasso?id=108&cont=pastprojDetail

EMNEM: www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/quality-assurance/projects/enmem/

ECA principles: www.eacaconsortium.net/download.php/?id=81

UNESCO guidelines: [http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29228&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

[URL_ID=29228&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29228&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)