

Enhancing quality across borders: Regional cooperation in QA in HE

Joint QA procedures and Mutual recognition

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<http://www.nvaao.net>



Join QA procedures and mutual recognition are influenced and determined by

- The object of the recognition
- The rationale of the recognition
- The tools and methods available to recognize

Object of recognition

Is it the - programme(1)

- degree (2)

- evaluation or accreditation decision (3)

Concerns it a **single** , **bi...multiple** or **joint programme**
or degree

Rationale of recognition

- Academic
- Professional
- A mix of both

Tools and methods available to recognize

1. Mutual recognition (ECA)
2. Recognition of an international accreditation by a national agency (Equivalency of accreditation)
3. Joint or bi-accreditations (or evaluations)
4. Approach of joint or multi degrees or programmes

1. Mutual recognition of accreditation or evaluation decision (European Consortium for Accreditation)

‘If I, as agency A, were to implement the accreditation that agency B has implemented, I would achieve the same result.’

1. Mutual recognition of accreditation

Step-by-step process

- Analysis of mutual standards and procedures
- Recognition of mutual standards and procedures
- Recognition of results of assessments
- Recognition of accreditation decision

1. Mutual recognition of accreditation

Provided

- There is a mutual trust
- We accept a certain diversity in criteria and procedures
- We accept mutual verification of data and results

1. Mutual recognition of accreditation

- Regarding level (Bachelor-Master)
- Regarding orientation (more or less research)
- Regarding the domain

2. Equivalency of accreditation

Principles

- Programme is positively accredited (by other accreditation agency)
- Accreditation decision is actual
- Accreditation is based on public assessment report
- Accreditation agency has an adequate organisation structure
- Accreditation agency uses acceptable criteria

3. Joint or bi-accreditations (or evaluations)

Principles

- Trust
- Common understanding (object, rationale)
- Comparison mutual procedures and standards
- Accept diversity

4. Accreditation of joint- multi degrees/programmes

Principles

The external assessment (of parts) of the curriculum offered by the partners institutions can be replaced by

- an external assessment carried out by an other agency
- an accreditation by an other agency
- other relevant documents approving the Q of those parts of the curriculum offered by the partners institutions