Regional cooperation in QA

Relation between institutional, national and European level

The role of stakeholders

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Bologna Process Committee (BPC)
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ESU: European Students' Union

- 45 national unions of students (35 countries)
- The voice of students at European level

Issues:
- Bologna Process
- Quality Assurance
- Mobility
- Funding
- Lisbon Strategy
- Governance
Quality

- Quality depends on expectations
  - What is a “good” toaster? Fairly easy …
  - What is a “good” study programme? Difficult …

- A stakeholder-relative concept
  - Stakeholders have specific expectations
  - Hardly possible to define quality absolutely

- Quality assurance must …
  - … involve all stakeholders,
  - … allow expression of expectations and
  - … facilitate negotiation of different expectations
Who are the key stakeholders?

- Internally: Within the HEI
  - HEI leadership
  - Professors and teaching staff
  - Non-academic staff
  - Students
- Externally: The social partners
  - Employers and employers' organisations
  - Employees and trade unions
Student involvement in QA

- **Students are involved at all 3 levels**
- **Involvement at only 2 of 3 levels**
- **Involvement at only 1 of 3 levels**
- **No student involvement at all**
Different levels, different roles

- European Standards & Guidelines (ESG)
- European Quality Assurance Register (EQR)
- National level
  - Legal framework
  - External quality assurance
- The institution
  - Quality development and improvement
  - Partnership culture (staff & students)

Towards the European Higher Education Area
Bologna Process
QA at European level

- **Principles:**
  - National and institutional diversity
  - European frameworks, rather than detailed regulation

- **European Standards & Guidelines for QA**
  - Developed by the “E4 Group” (Institutions, Students, Quality Assurance Agencies) jointly
  - About internal & external QA
  - To facilitate development of national QA systems
  - To ensure comparability and compatibility of QA
  - To create mutual trust in QA systems
QA at European level (cont.)

- European Quality Assurance Register (EQR)
  - Developed by EUA, EURASHE, ENQA, ESU (E4)

- The purposes
  - To list agencies complying with European S & G
  - To create a basis for mutual trust
  - To enhance recognition and mobility

- In practical terms
  - Web-based
  - Easily accessible for students, employers, public, ...
Thank you for your attention!

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