Regional cooperation in QA

Relation between institutional, national and European level

The role of stakeholders

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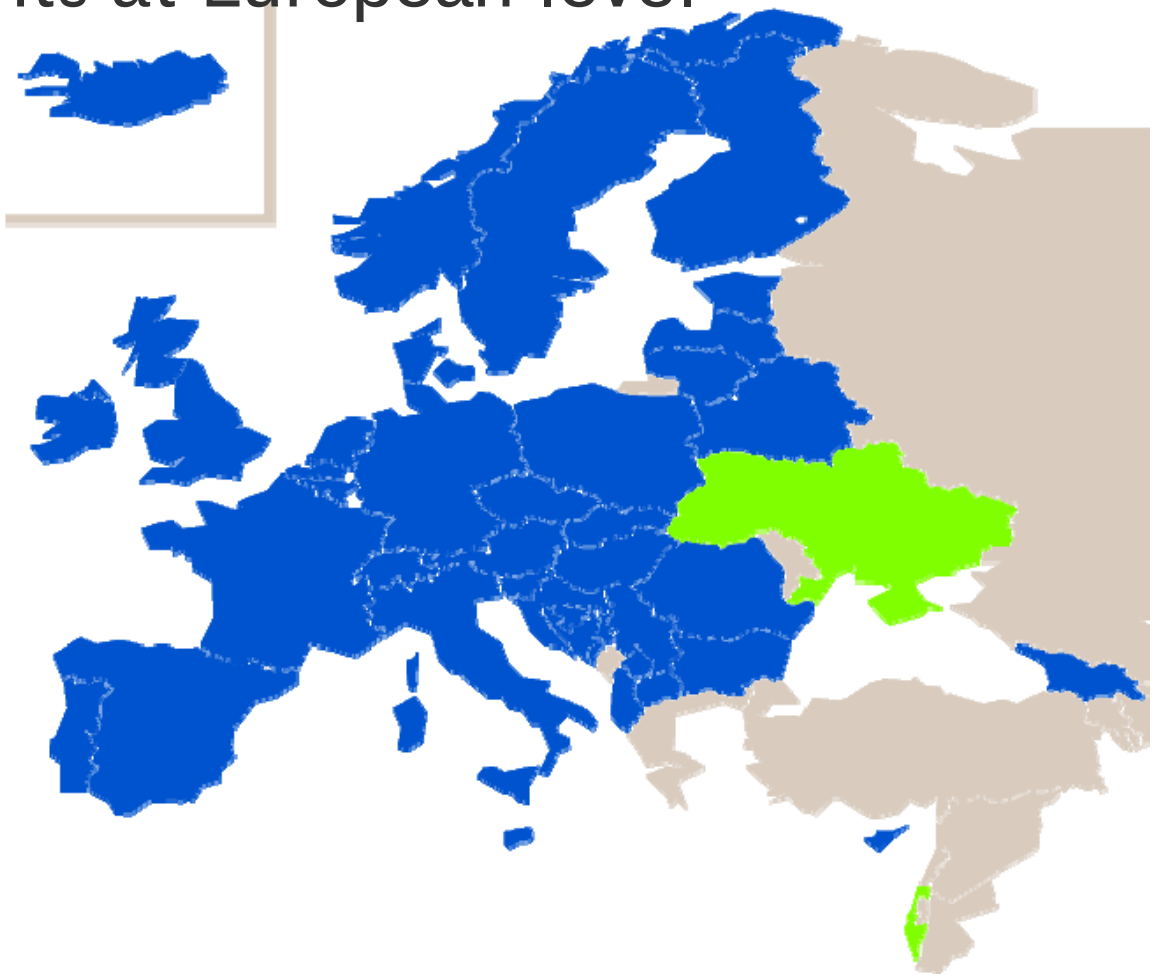
Bologna Process Committee (BPC)

Bonn, 19 June 2007

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



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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

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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

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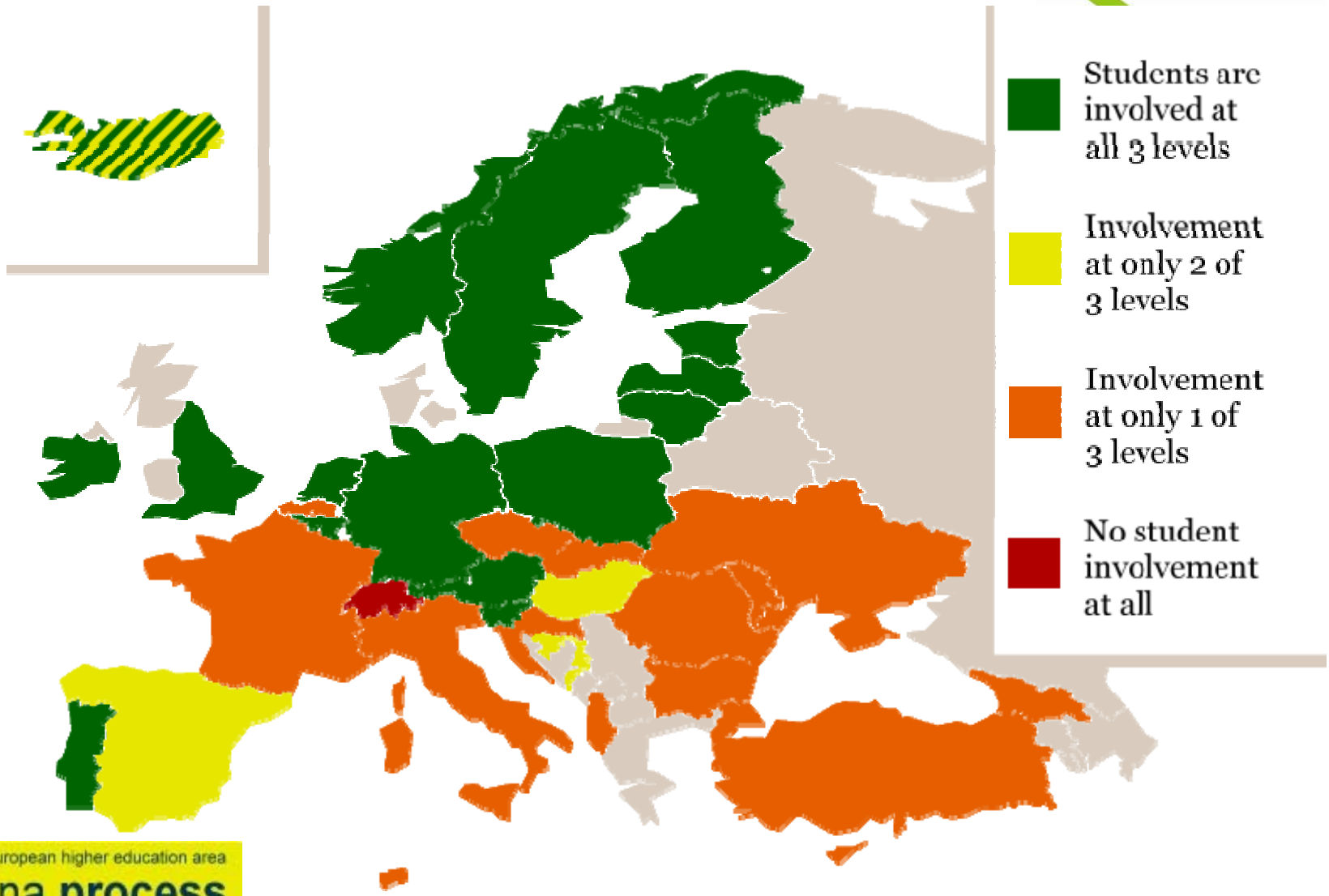
Student involvement in QA



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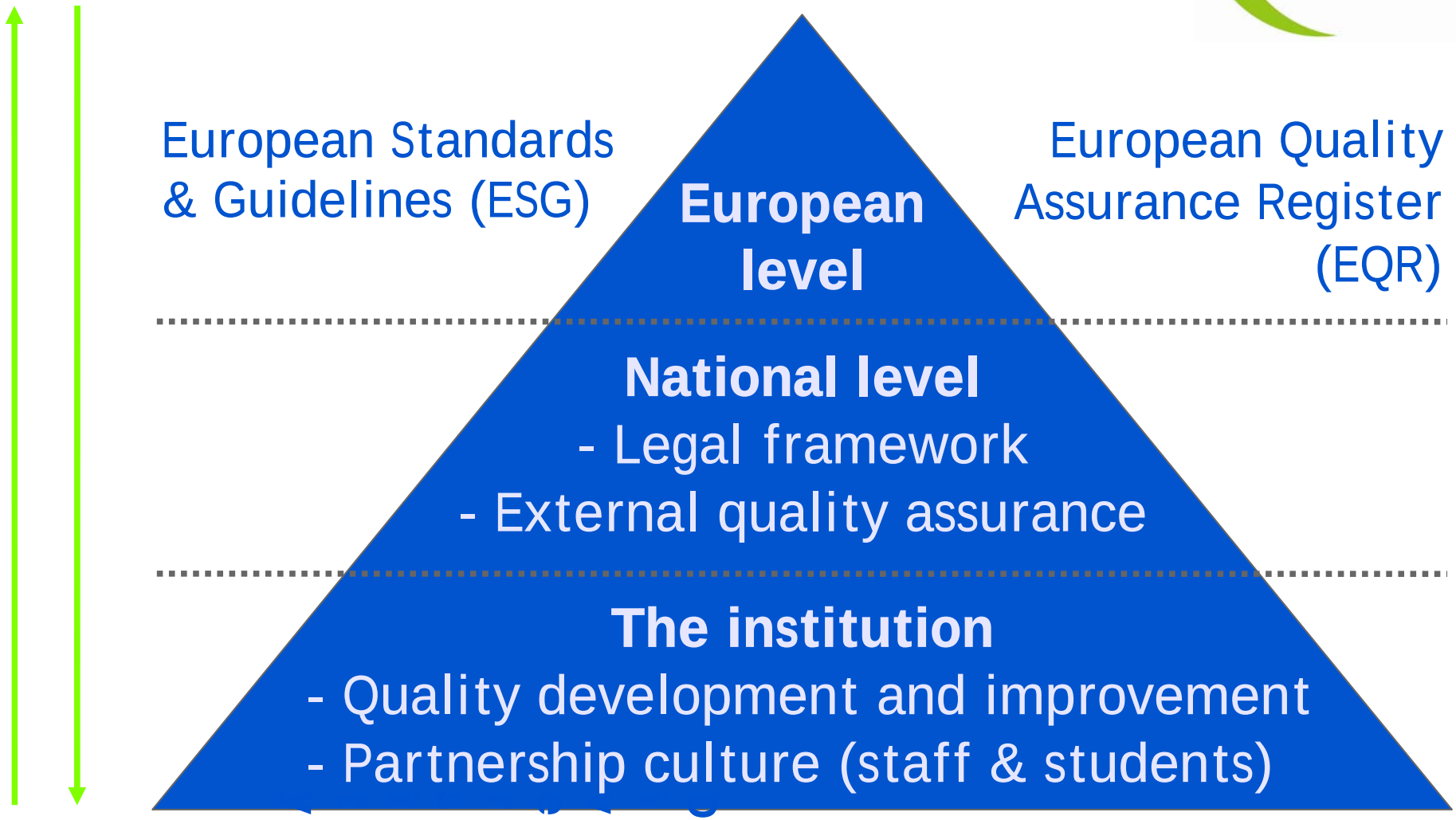
Different leves, different roles



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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)
  - Endorsed by Ministers in London, May 2007
- 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, …

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Thank you for your attention!

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