Implementing a new method for quality assurance
Lessons learned from a trial run
Overview

• Background of COBRA
• Operation of COBRA
• Challenges and discussion questions
Background of COBRA
QA in HEI in Flanders (2015-2020)

- Reforming the QA and accreditation system in HEI (2015)
- Development of an internal method for QA (2015)
- COBRA trial run (2015-2016)
- Institutional review+ (2016)
Operation of COBRA
COBRA – say what?

An integral and transparent way of developing educational quality, in dialogue with all stakeholders on three levels of our university.
COBRA 1: level of the PC

- primary actors: students, teachers, staff
- COBRA 1
- reports
- extra material
- QA portal
COBRA 2: level of the faculty

PC-reports → Faculty council
COBRA 3: level of the university

- Education Council
- Executive Board
- Academic Council
Default COBRA cycle

Year 1 (2019-2020)
- COBRA discussions among students during the second semester
- Processing the results at PC (COBRA 1)

Year 2 (2016-2017)
- Follow-up of the outcomes of PC discussion
- Adjustment of preconditions towards faculty and university (COBRA 2 en 3)

Year 3 (2017-2018)
- COBRA discussions among teachers and staff during the first semester
- COBRA discussions among students during the second semester

Year 4 (2018-2019)
- Processing at PC together with external peers, professionals and alumni (COBRA1)
- Adjustment of preconditions towards faculty and university (COBRA 2 en 3)
Communication & transparency

- COBRA website
  - Information
  - Support

**STUDENT**
How do I contribute to the quality of my education programme?
- READ MORE

**LECTURER OR STAFF MEMBER**
How do I contribute to the quality of my education programme?
- READ MORE

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OR VICE DEAN**
What is my role as programme director or vice-dean in COBRA?
- READ MORE

**COBRA STAFF**
How can I support COBRA in my faculty?
- READ MORE

**SUPPORT**
The Educational Quality Monitoring Unit and the Vice rector of Education Policy offer support to implement COBRA within the quality culture at your faculty.
- CONTACT
Communication & transparency

- Public transparency
- Quality assurance portal: all information about QA brought together

www.kuleuven.be/qualityassuranceportal
Communication & transparency

- **Quality report:**
  - Subsection quality assurance portal
  - Documents about QA of the study programmes
Challenges and discussion questions
Questions

1. What are, according to you, necessary conditions/success factors for external stakeholders to make a meaningful contribution to QA?

2. How do you stimulate involvement/engagement among students and teachers vis-à-vis QA?

3. Do you recognize the need to/call for more ownership over QA among teachers and teaching committees in your institution? If so, how do you deal with this?