



Vlaamse universiteiten en hogescholen raad

A first exploration of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

EQAF 2019
Berlin, 23 November 2019

Patrick Van den Bosch

European Approach?

- Framework to evaluate joint programmes uniformly
 - Set of standards (ESG-proof)
 - Without applying additional national criteria
 - Facilitate integrated approaches to QA
- Adopted in 2015 by ministers of EHEA

European Approach?

1. Eligibility
 - status; joint design/delivery; cooperation agreement
2. Learning Outcomes
 - level; disciplinary field; achievement; (regulated professions)
3. Study Programme
 - curriculum; credits; workload
4. Admission and Recognition

European Approach?

5. Learning, Teaching and Assessment
6. Student Support
7. Resources
 - staff; facilities
8. Transparency and Documentation
9. Quality Assurance

QA in Flanders

- Shift in QA system 2015 - 2019
 - programme evaluation => institutional evaluation
 - European Approach in Flemish decree
- European Approach compulsory for some programmes that lead to a joint diploma
- EA in Flanders: useful but too binding and checking?

European Approach: pilot

- DocNomads Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Documentary Filmmaking
 - two-year, full time, international graduate programme (120 ECTS)
 - three partner universities:
 - Színház- és Filmművészeti Egyetem (University of Theatre and Film Arts), Budapest, Hungary
 - Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon, Portugal
 - LUCA School of Arts, Brussels, Belgium
- Scope: Programme evaluation with a view to accreditation
- www.vluhr.be/docnomads

European Approach: drafting a manual

Manual for the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

- Based on:
 - Standards for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in the EHEA
 - Manual for External Quality Assurance in Flemish Higher Education
 - New insights
- => pilot manual
- => High level of involvement of stakeholders

European Approach: drafting a manual

- Principles
 - Focus on jointness by involving all partners in the programmes consortium
 - Involving national accreditation organisations
 - A tailor made approach for each assessment
 - A lean and efficient procedural system

European Approach: drafting a manual

- Making choices
 - Format of a SER
 - Providing evidence during the site visit / appendices
 - Level of compliance
 - Composition of the panel
 - Follow-up procedure
 - ...

European Approach: pilot

- Strengths and opportunities
 - Writing a SER
 - Information for the panel
 - Stimulating internal discussions: re-think and re-evaluate
 - Openness to discuss shortcomings (self-critically)
 - Rewarding procedure for the (joint) efforts made

European Approach: pilot

- Weaknesses and difficulties
 - Recognition of the European Approach
 - Differences in terminology
 - Time needed to reach consensus on
 - Budget
 - Equal level of involvement of all partners

European Approach: lessons learned

- Open framework; Room for ‘the story of the joint programme’
- Stimulates internal QA
- One site visit: sufficient information on all locations
- Recognition of the EA is still limited
- Increase of willingness to use the EA voluntary (in Flanders)
- New manual
 - Reduced administrative burden
 - Guidance on writing a SER
 - Collaboration with accreditation agencies
 - Improvement oriented



Vlaamse universiteiten en hogescholen raad

Patrick Van den Bosch

VLUHR QA

Ravensteingalerij 27

B - 1000 Brussels

patrick.van.den.bosch@vluhr.be

+32 2 792 55 15

www.europeanapproach.be