European Universities and the Quality of Higher Education: Perspectives of Ministries

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Organisation of EUniQ

- Coordinator Flemish Ministry; managed by NVAO

- 17 project partners:
  - 8 QA agencies: 4 from QA systems in development and 4 fully developed (cf Bologna Implementation Report; application of EA for QA of JPs); peer learning in pilots and Roadmap Group

  - 6 ministries from Peer Support Group on QA; Resonance Group

  - 3 stakeholders organisations EUA, ESU, ENQA in Roadmap Group

Organisation of EUniQ

- The **Roadmap Group**, with the QA agencies and stakeholder organisations, is the main management and decision-making instrument of the project.

- The **Resonance Group**, consisting of ministries, will guide, monitor and evaluate the work of the Roadmap Group.

The resonance group: composition

1 Ministry of Education and Training, Flemish Community, Belgium

2   Ministry of Education and Sport ,Albania

3   Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgaria

4   Hcerés (representing Ministry), France,

5   Ministry of Education and Science, Georgia

6   Ministry of Education, Romania

Deliverables of the Resonance Group

- Paper Resonance Group: Analysis of the proposed methodology

- Resonance Group Paper: European Universities, legal frameworks and the ESG. Some recommendations

Some recommendations on the development of QA of European Universities…

1. Focus on the alliance

The framework for Quality Assurance for European University alliances needs to focus on the joint provision of the European University alliance, and not on the basic quality of the institutions and programmes.

2. Take the complete remit into account

Where most know national and international standards, procedures and processes focus mainly on the quality of education, the long term and broad vision of the European University Alliances require a broader focus, taking into account the complete remit, including a international multi campus approach and enhanced mobility schedules.

3. Respect and strengthen Bologna key commitments

- Rather then doubling earlier developed processes procedures:

    - Stimulate the use of the European Approach and cross border QA to solve programmes.
    - Consider making this tools applicable on the alliance level

4. Define a clear focus of the quality assurance process.

- Try to focus on the added value of the alliance
- Respect the developmental stages of alliances

- The EUniQ framework suggests a shift in QA

  - Quality of educational programmes versus effectiveness of internal QA and quality enhancement mechanisms
  - Accountability versus enhancement

5. Facilitate collaborations and support trust among actors

- In order to build a successful QA framework or process , a strong stakeholder dialogue is a must.

- Ministries, agencies, institutions and stakeholders will need to share information and be willing to integrate a common framework within the existing national systems.

- Idea: encourage joint evaluations by at least 2 QA agencies, mirroring the collaboration spirit that stays at the foundation of European Universities alliances

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Future steps

- Continue the dialogue on QA that was started by the EUniQ project
  - Co development with all actors
  - European university alliances = lots of chairs around the table
  - Need for flexibility, openness and dialogue

- Continue developing the QA while developing the European Universities