

# Role of national levels referring to QA Institutions

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<http://www.nvaao.net>

Bologna Seminar on QA systems for HE at European and national level

## Aims Bologna declaration

= Simulate academic and professional mobility

→ Need for mutual recognition of qualifications

## Bologna Tools

- Degree structure
- European co-operation in quality assurance
- Bachelor-Master Structure and External QA by (mostly) national Agencies

Development actual QA systems and QA agencies since and second world war

→ QA development in Historical, cultural and political context

Implementation of Bologna

→ Nationally organised →

- Different pace in implementation
- Way of implementation can be different

## Systems of external evaluation

|           |                                 |                        |                        |                       |                                  |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Approach  | accreditation                   | audit                  | assessment             | external ex           |                                  |
| Object    | provider                        | programme              | learner                | output                |                                  |
| Focus     | govern-<br>ance &<br>regulation | curriculum<br>design   | learning<br>experience | medium of<br>delivery | student<br>support               |
|           | content of<br>program-<br>mes   | financial<br>viability | qualifi-<br>cation     | admin<br>support      | organis-<br>ational<br>processes |
| Rationale | accountability                  | control                | compliance             | improvement           |                                  |
| Methods   | Self-<br>assessment             | PIs                    | peer visit             | inspection            |                                  |
|           | document<br>analysis            | stakeholder<br>surveys | direct<br>intervention | proxy<br>dlegate      |                                  |

(Lee Harvey)

## Berlin, a pathway for national quality assurance systems

→ **no** to an uniformed and imposed system

→ **yes** to the movement towards harmonisation based on mutual trust

## Bergen

- Overarching framework
- Standards and guidelines for Quality Assurance
- European Register
- Mutual recognition

## Standards and Guidelines

- Three levels
- Generic
- Institutions/ Programmes
- Comparable to other S&G as those of INQAAHE
- SER → Assessment → Evaluation decision

## What about ESG

Tricky points:

- independency
- public report
- appeal
- ...

Approach with attention for historical, cultural and political context

Trust and belief

## Meeting the ESG

- What does it mean ?
- Is that enough for mutual recognition ?
- Mutual recognition of what?
- What do we still need?

## Mutual recognition of accreditation or evaluation decision

‘If I, as agency A, were to implement the accreditation that agency B has implemented, I would achieve the same result.’

## Step-by-step process

- Analysis of mutual standards and procedures
- Recognition of mutual standards and procedures
- Recognition of results of assessments
- Recognition of accreditation decision

## Provided

- There is a mutual trust
- We accept a certain diversity in criteria and procedures
- We accept mutual verification of data and results

## Mutual recognition of accreditation

- Regarding level (Bachelor-Master)
- Regarding orientation (more or less research)
- Regarding the domain

## Dealing with domain specific aspects

- Lay it down in the competences
  - Evaluate learning outcomes
  - Validation
- Projects as EUR-ACE, tuning, ...

## Recognition of qualifications

- Lisbon recognition convention (1997)
- role ENIC/NARIC
- responsibility HE institutions
- relation academic - professional recognition

## The proof is in eating the pudding...

### Examples ...

- joint degrees
- institutional networks
- thematic or disciplinary networks
- .....