



Ministry of Higher Education
and Science

Danish Agency for Higher Education

Recognition of programmes accredited by cross border QA procedures

- The legal setting of recognition of programmes and joint programmes in recognition
- The Danish experience in recognising programmes subject to cross border accreditation
- “A European approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes”??



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The legal setting of Recognition

The Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) – Council of Europe and UNESCO

Basic rules:

- The right to have a fair recognition of your educational qualifications in another signatory country – establishment of ENIC-NARIC centres
- Recognise a foreign degree at the same level unless the competent recognition authority can prove substantial differences between foreign and similar national programme
- Recognition principles should be based on recognition of learning outcomes and not of equivalence



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The legal setting of Recognition

- LRC and QA: “Competent recognition authority should take due account of formal QA systems and results”.
- Subsidiary texts: “Code of good practice in the provision of transnational education” (2001) and “Recommendation of the recognition of joint degrees (2004)
- TNE Programmes must be legally established – providing and awarding institutions must comply with rules in all participating countries



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The legal setting of Recognition

- “Competent recognition authorities may make the recognition of joint degrees conditional on all parts of the study programme leading to the degree and/or institutions providing the programme being subject to QA
- All parts and all institutions must be accredited/recognised according to legislation in all participating countries.
- No mentioning of ESG’s, EQAR, Cross-border QA
- Recognition therefore in many countries depending on QA decisions in all participating countries



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Danish principles of recognition and cross border QA

- Legislation on joint programmes and Danish programmes offered abroad allows cross border QA by agencies registered in EQAR
- Cross border QA of Danish programmes/institutions is allowed – the foreign QAA must comply with Danish legislation on QA and the final decision is taken by the Accreditation Council.
- Danish QAAs are not allowed to operate abroad on foreign national programmes – only in relation to joint programmes with Danish institutions participation



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Danish principles of recognition and cross border QA

- In Denmark: A Bachelor Degree from Italy will be recognised if the Institution/programme is accredited/recognised by a recognised Italian QAA or a foreign QAA if this is done according to Italian legislation
- Recognition of joint degrees: DK accepts single cross border QA of the programme if legally established in participating countries and the QA is done by a formally recognised QAA applying ESGs/registered in EQAR or a formally recognised QAA outside EHEA.



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Danish principles of recognition and cross border QA

- A consortium offering a legally established joint programme with 3 fully accredited institutions and one legitimate but not-accredited provider:
 - recognition if all parts of programme is studied in recognised institutions and accredited through cross border QA or any other formally recognised QA arrangement
 - considering recognition if part of the programme is studied in the legitimate non-accredited institution through cross border QA or any other formally recognised QA arrangement
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European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

- Too many obstacles in accreditation of joint programmes – national legislation not allowing cross border QA, national regulations stipulating too many regulations in master programmes
- Proposal for procedures for recognition of one single Cross Border QA of joint programmes by EQAR registered QAA – relevant to both institutional and programme accreditation



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European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

- A European approach will definitely enhance recognition of joint degrees accredited in a single accreditation procedure by cross border QAAs registered in EQAR
- Will strengthen EHEA cooperation in QA and consolidate mutual trust in QA cooperation
- Cross border QA and single QA procedures are an obvious development following European agreements of ESGs and EQAR register.
- Discussion in DK about status of proposal? Mandatory or guiding principles and good practice?