

# The European approach for QA of JPs: best practices & recommendations

**Lucien Bollaert**

**International independent QA expert**

**Visiting professor**

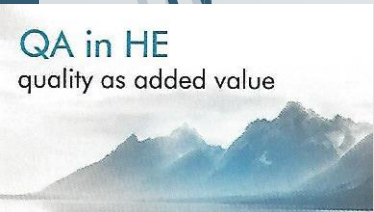
**Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts**

**EURASHE Community of QA**

**23 January 2019**

**TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina**

- ➔ Case-studies
- ➔ Recommendations for HEIs
- ➔ Recommendations for QAAs
- ➔ Recommendations for national authorities
- ➔ Further information



# **The European approach for QA of JPs: best practices & recommendations**

# **case-studies**

**Lucien Bollaert**

**International independent QA expert**

**Visiting professor**

**Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts**

**EURASHE Community of QA**

**23 January 2019**

**TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina**

Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

- ✓ Ma of Science in Strategic Border Management
- ✓ coordinated by ECA, accredited by NVAO (29 May 2015)
  - ✓ Faculteit Militaire Wetenschappen Nederlandse Defensie Academie (The Netherlands)
  - ✓ Rezekne Higher Education Institution (Latvia)
  - ✓ Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
  - ✓ National University for Distance-Learning Education (Spain)
  - ✓ University of Salamanca (Spain)
  - ✓ Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (non-degree awarding)
  - ✓ Frontex (non-degree awarding)



Assessment report:  
European Joint Master's in  
Strategic Border Management

**e c a** | european consortium for accreditation

Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

International coordinating experience  
Not EQAR-registered

EQAR-registered  
No formal international competence

coordinated by ECA, initial accredited by NVAO (29 May 2015)

Teaching & working language: English  
International panel: UK, NL, IE, SL

Faculteit Militaire Wetenschappen Nederlandse Defensie Academie (The Netherlands)

As new programme  
Prepared intensively

Using same JOCAR framework  
No European approach yet

1 site visit: airport border security training centre  
Schiphol

Rezekne Higher Education Institution (Latvia)

Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)

National University for Distance-Learning Education (Spain)

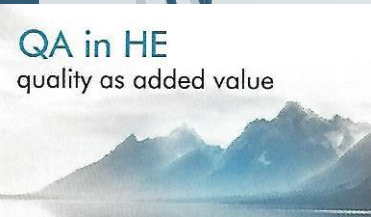
University of Salamanca (Spain)

Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (non-degree awarding)

Frontex (non-degree awarding)

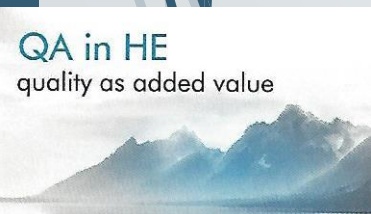
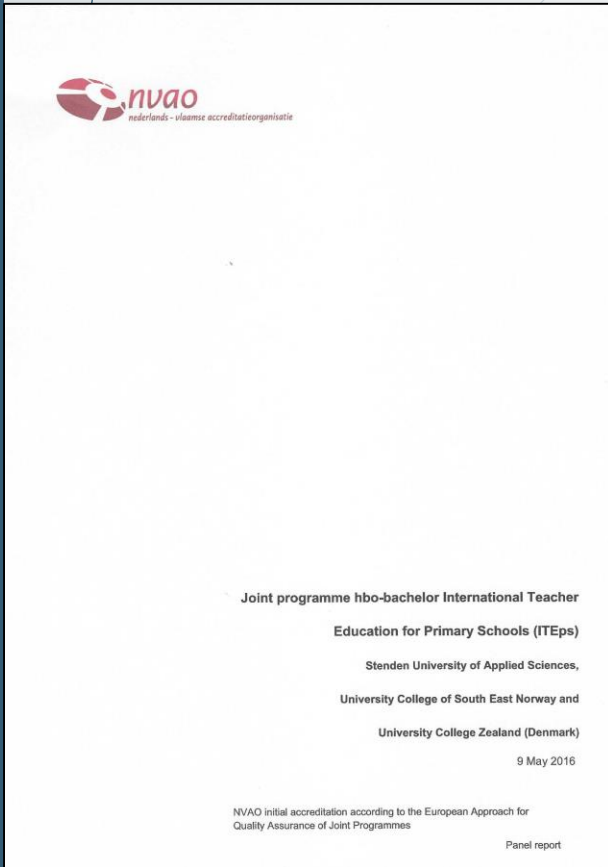
Accreditation not accepted by Estonia  
EKKA observer

European organisation of employment



Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

- ✓ (professional) Ba in International Teacher Education for Primary Schools (ITEPS)
- ✓ initial accreditation as new programme by NVAO (30 June 2016)
  - ✓ Stenden UAS (coordinator) (The Netherlands)
  - ✓ University College of South East Norway (Norway)
  - ✓ University College Zealand (Denmark)



Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with JP consortium all decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

colleges of same level

As new programme  
Intensively prepared

(professional) Ba in International Education for Primary Schools (ITEPs)

EQAR-registered  
No formal international competence

initial accreditation as new programme by NVAO (30 June 2016)

Use of European approach declared compatible with NVAO framework

Stenden UAS (coordinator) (The Netherlands)

1 site

University College of South East Norway (Norway)

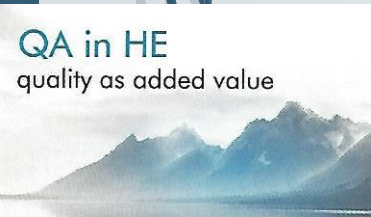
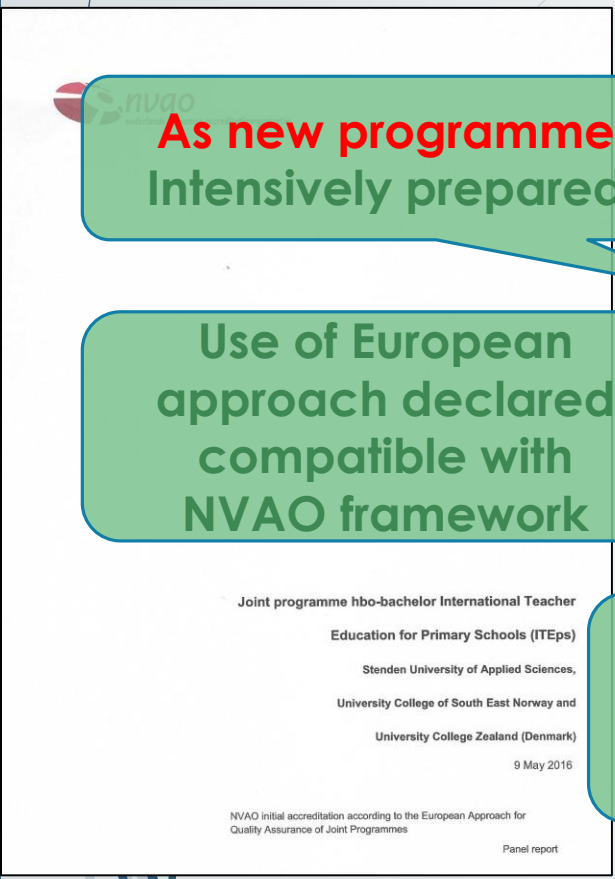
Non-EHEA

University College Zealand (Denmark)

Teaching & working language: English  
International panel: DK, NL, NO, NL

Observations of coordinating HEI and coach:

- Establishing eligibility;
- Assistance of ministries required;
- Sequence of single to multilateral accreditation;
- Different accreditation fees and periods;
- Non-EHEA partner (Norway);
- + Getting to know and trust each other as partners;
- + 1 EQA procedure and site-visit;
- + international experience by QAA, panel & secretary.



Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:



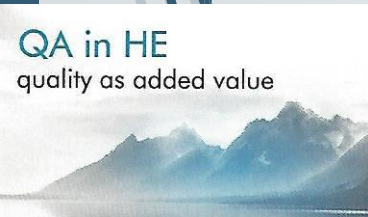
Review Report of the Expert Panel – Joint Programme

**EuroPS-Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG)**

Final version February 24, 2017

Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria, Remgasse 5, 4. OG, 1010 Vienna, Austria, T +43 1 532 03 20 0, F -99, office@aq.ac.at, www.aq.ac.at, DVR Nr.: 093 31 63

- ✓ **Ma** in Political Science: Integration and Governance (PoSIG)
- ✓ conditional accreditation by **AQ Austria** (March 2017)
  - ✓ **University** of Salzburg (**MA**) (**Austria**)
  - ✓ **University** of Ljubljana (**MSc**) (Slovenia)
  - ✓ Ss. Cyril and Methodius **University** of Skopje (**MSc**) (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
  - ✓ **European University** of Tirana (**MSc**) (Albania)
  - ✓ **University** of Tirana (**MA**) (Albania)
  - ✓ **FAMA College** Pristina (**MA**) (**Kosovo**)
  - ✓ **University** of Business and Technology Pristina (**MSc**) (**Kosovo**)
  - ✓ **University** of Sarajevo (**MA**) (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
  - ✓ **Sarajevo School** for Science and Technology (**MA**) (Bosnia & Herzegovina)





same level of degree  
but different extensions  
sometimes in same town

European approaches finalized with  
decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:



Germanlike  
decision

✓ **Ma** in Political Science: **national QAA of only non-Balkan HEI**  
Governance (PoSIG)

conditional accreditation by **AQ Austria** (March 2017)

- ✓ **University** of Salzburg (**MA**) (**Austria**)
- ✓ **University** of Ljubljana (**MSc**) (Slovenia)
- ✓ **Ss. Cyril and Methodius University** of Skopje (**MSc**) (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Teaching & working  
language: English  
International panel:  
SR, DE, UA, CH

different names (and  
quality of degrees) of  
HEIs

- ✓ **European University** of Tirana (**MSc**) (Albania)
- ✓ **University** of Tirana (**MA**) (Albania)
- ✓ **FAMA College** Pristina (**MA**) (Kosovo)

Non-  
EHEA


- ✓ **University** of Business and Technology **Pristina** (**MSc**) (**Kosovo**)
- ✓ **University** of **Sarajevo** (**MA**) (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- ✓ **Sarajevo School** for Science and Technology (**MA**) (Bosnia & Herzegovina)

many partners  
competing in same  
town; trust?

Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

- ✓ Ma Sc of **Maritime Operations**
- ✓ accreditation by **ZevA** (18 July 2017)
  - ✓ **Hochschule Emden-Leer** (Germany)
  - ✓ Western Norway **University of Applied Sciences** (Norway)

**Experts' Report**  
on the Accreditation of the Master's Programme  
"Maritime Operations" (M.Sc.)  
jointly offered by  
**Hochschule Emden-Leer and**  
**Western Norway University of Applied Sciences**  
(File Nr. 1412-xx-1)



81. Meeting of the Standing Accreditation Commission on 18.07.2017  
TOP 5.07

Study Programme	Degree	ECTS	Programme Duration	Type of Programme	Annual Intake Capacity
Maritime Operations	M.Sc.	120	2 years	full time	25

Accreditation contract signed on: 23 August 2016  
Self-report submitted on: 22 February 2017  
Date of site visit: 6 April, 2017

University Contact:  
Marcus Bentin, Dean of the Faculty of Maritime Studies, Hochschule Emden/Leer, Bergmannstrasse 36, 26789 Leer, Tel.: +49 491 92617 5060, email: marcus.bentin@hs-emden-leer.de, www.hs-emden-leer.de

ZEV A programme officer: Anja Grube

Expert Panel:

- Annik Magerholm Fet, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Vice-Rector (Ålesund Campus) and Professor of Environmental Management, Systems Engineering and Life-Cycle Analysis
- Aykut I. Ölçer, World Maritime University Malmö, Professor for Naval Architecture and Maritime Technology
- Lars Bremer, Carl Büttner Shipmanagement GmbH, Bremen, Managing Director
- Philipp Schulz, student of Industrial Engineering, Aachen Technical University

Hanover, 6 June, 2017

Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCCAR procedure:

Very specific and regulated by international procedures

- ✓ Ma Sc of **Maritime Operations**
- ✓ accreditation by **ZevA** (18 July 2017)
- ✓ **Hochschule Emden-Leer (Germany)**
- ✓ **Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway)**

QAA of the same country as (coordinating) partner

Only 2 partners of the same level

Experts' Report  
on the Accreditation of the Master's Programme  
"Maritime Operations" (M.Sc.)  
jointly offered by  
Hochschule Emden-Leer and  
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences  
(File Nr. 1412-xx-1)

81. Meeting of the Standing Accreditation Commission on 18.07.2017  
TOP 5.07

Study Programme	Degree	ECTS	Programme Duration	Type of Programme	Annual Intake Capacity
Maritime Operations	M.Sc.	120	2 years	full time	25

Accreditation contract signed on: 23 August 2016  
Self-report submitted on: 22 February 2017  
Date of site visit: 6 April, 2017

University Contact:  
Marcus Bentin, Dean of the Faculty of Maritime Studies, Hochschule Emden/Leer, Bergmannstrasse 36, 26789 Leer, Tel.: +49 491 92617 5060, email: marcus.bentin@hs-emden-leer.de, www.hs-emden-leer.de

ZEvA programme officer: Anja Grube

Expert Panel:

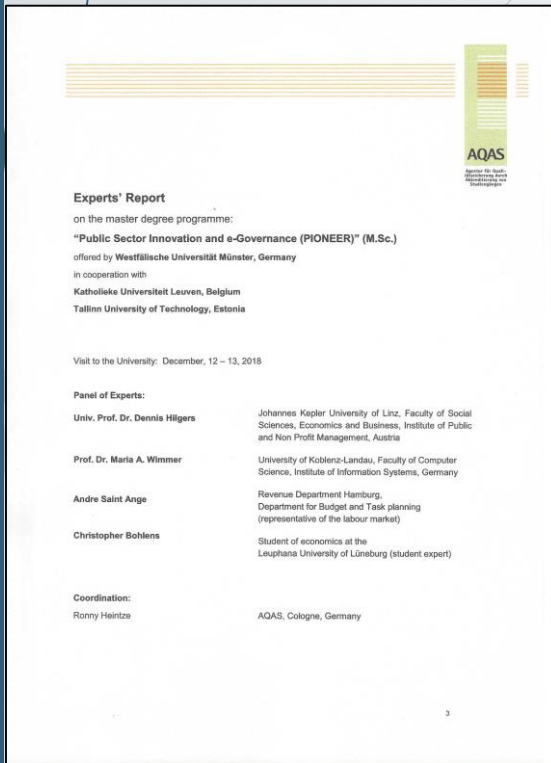
- Annik Magerholm Fet, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Vice-Rector (Ålesund Campus) and Professor of Environmental Management, Systems Engineering and Life-Cycle Analysis
- Aykut I. Ölçer, World Maritime University Malmö, Professor for Naval Architecture and Maritime Technology
- Lars Bremer, Carl Bültner Shipmanagement GmbH, Bremen, Managing Director
- Philipp Schütz, student of Industrial Engineering, Aachen Technical University

Hanover, 6 June, 2017

- ✓ Still 4 ImpEA projects running
- ✓ Several being awaited by various QAAs (NVAO, Vluhr, ...)

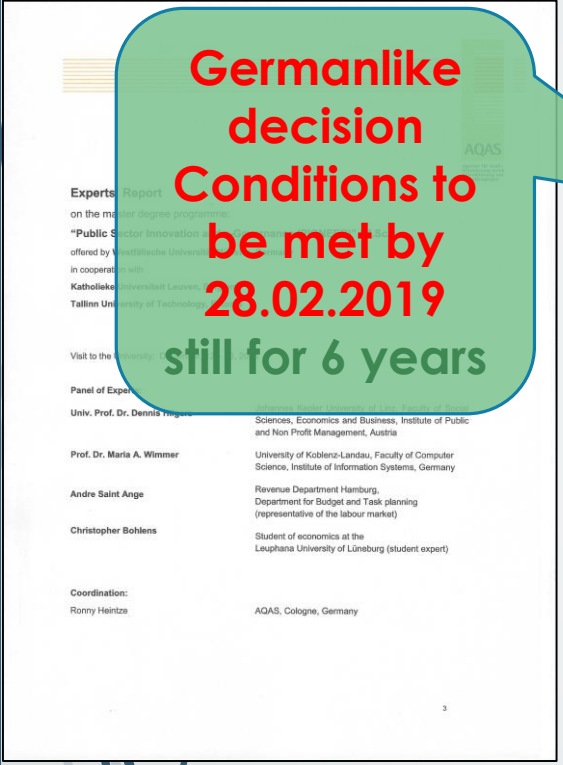
Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

- ✓ **Erasmus Mundus** Ma of Science in Public Sector Innovation (PIONEER)
- ✓ **conditional accreditation** by AQAS (17 May 2018)
  - ✓ KU Leuven (Belgium)
  - ✓ **WWU** Münster (Germany)
  - ✓ TAL(linn) **TECH** (Estonia)



Up to now 4 full European approaches finalized with international decision & 1 JOCAR procedure:

EU co-funded



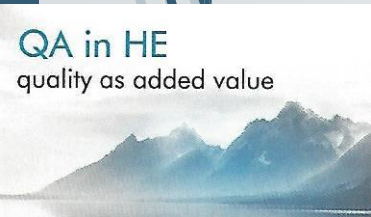
Germanlike decision Conditions to be met by 28.02.2019 still for 6 years

- ✓ Erasmus Mundus Ma of Science in Public Sector Innovation (PIONEER)
- ✓ conditional accreditation by AQAS
- ✓ KU Leuven (Belgium)
- ✓ WWU Münster (Germany)
- ✓ TAL(linn) TECH (Estonia)

Different systems:  
 DE initial accreditation in advance  
 FL Erasmus Mundus accredited until 2021  
 ES automatic accreditation during period of institutional accreditation

Universities of different status

- Observations of coordinating HEI and coach:
- Cultural & procedural EQA differences;
  - Too early to write a SER after the start;
  - NVAO acceptance;
  - Accreditation not biggest problem but joint examination rules, loads of pragmatism needed
  - + EA more focussed on joint aspects of JP;
  - + 1 EQA procedure, report and site-visit;
  - + although not very different from national diverging space



# The European approach for QA of JPs: best practices & recommendations

# recommendations

# for JP cooperating HEIs

**Lucien Bollaert**

**International independent QA expert**

**Visiting professor**

**Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts**

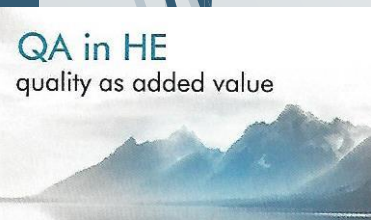
**EURASHE Community of QA**

**23 January 2019**

**TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina**

❖ **CHALLENGES:**

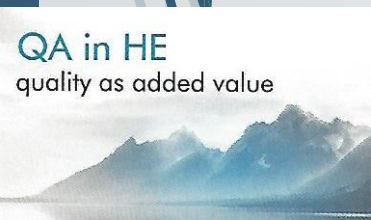
- Additional national criteria and different validity periods;
- Different national accreditation decisions: what to do with conditions?
- Can non-EHEA countries and QAAs be convinced to accept EA results?
- Eligibility can be complex;
- Joint programmes with different/single degree(s);
- International panel composition;
- Working and EQA language and translations;
- Site-visit collecting all information from other sites;
- Ex-ante accreditation;
- QAAs forgetting to inform each other;
- If you do not want to recognise the QA result then you will find a reason...





## ❖ OPPORTUNITIES:

- The European Approach is rewarding JP, HEIs, QAAs & ministries;
- Early and ongoing open communication among all involved increases the chances of successful experience;
- Pragmatism or flexible exemption in applying legal, agency and institutional requirements is important;
- JPs are different from national/single HEI's programmes, 'loophole' argument is not valid;
- Recognising QA result in another country can benefit the JP/HEIs in other countries (principle of reciprocity);
- Applying for the European Approach is good for the international profile and attractiveness of both JP and HEIs involved, and ultimately for the reputation and internationalisation of the national HE system;

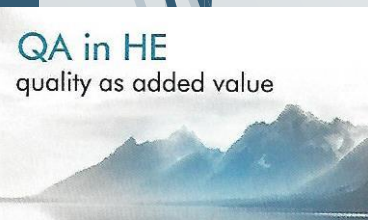






## ❖ HEIs reasons:

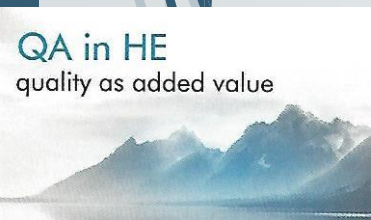
- The JP consortium or one/some cooperating HEIs are still not that far in the truly jointly designing and organising the JP (learning & assessment methods, IQA, finances, sleeping partners);
- ✓ **Collaborate truly jointly with all HEIs (and other partners) to design and deliver the JP (standards 1.2 and 1.3);**
- The JP consortium or one/some cooperating HEIs do not want to discuss with the national authorities (to make an exception);
- ✓ **Make sure most partners are officially recognized HEIs belonging to the EHEA that can and do communicate with their national authorities (standard 1.1);**
- The JP consortium is still afraid for the unknown procedure and international panel, which could be more severe than a national one;
- ✓ **Choose an experienced QAA and prepare thoroughly all details of the EQA process in a contract;**





## ❖ HEIs' reasons (cont):

- The translation of documents needed in the EQA (SER) process, although most JP documents are already in English or another common language;
- ✓ **Use one or two common languages to teach and to prepare and write all documents in;**
- ✓ **Choose the same working language for the EQA process;**
- The price of an international approach as opposed to a merely national;
- ✓ **Look at the prices if public and negotiate comparatively with the best QAAs;**
- ✓ **Budget the price in the overall cost of the JP;**
- ✓ **The cheapest is not necessarily the best, weigh price and quality;**





❖ **HEIs' reasons** (cont):

- ✓ Pay attention to all terms and conditions jointly in the preparation and lay them down in a cooperation agreement covering most items (standard 1.3);
- ✓ Improve the cooperation agreement with lessons learnt during the process, IQA and EQA (with annexes)(standard 1.3);
- ✓ Be sure to work professionally with intended LOs, their learning and teaching methods, as well as their assessments (standards 2 & 5);
- ✓ Compare and agree on the proper application of ECTS and workload according to European and national systems (standard 3);
- ✓ Organise team- and trust-building (social) activities with management, staff and students of the cooperating HEIs (standards 6 & 9);
- ✓ Organise preparatory (specialized) language courses (standard 6);
- ✓ Build up a flexible archive (portal) for all documentation (standard 8);



**The European approach for QA of JPs:  
best practices & recommendations**

# **recommendations for national authorities**

**Lucien Bollaert**

**International independent QA expert**

**Visiting professor**

**Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts**

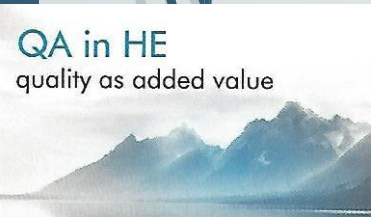
**EURASHE Community of QA**

**23 January 2019**

**TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina**

❖ **National reasons:**

- Many countries do still not (legally) accept reviews by the prescribed panel composition (international members, students and employers are sometimes the problem);
- **Communicate and help with an open-mind with the HEI(s) & QAA;**
- **Change your national EQA/accreditation legislature to comply with the ESG, the European approach for QA of JPs (and Lisbon RC);**
- **Accept in a flexible way (because of international character) the EQA procedure of the European approach for QA of JPs;**
- Many countries are still not (legally) open to (automatically) recognize the panel's decision or recommendation to accredit;
- Many countries still do not (legally) allow the European Approach for QA of JP;
- **Change your national EQA/accreditation legislature to (automatically) recognize or translate the panel's decision or proposal of accreditation;**





**The European approach for QA of JPs:  
best practices & recommendations**

# **recommendations for QAAs**

**Lucien Bollaert**

**International independent QA expert**

**Visiting professor**

**Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts**

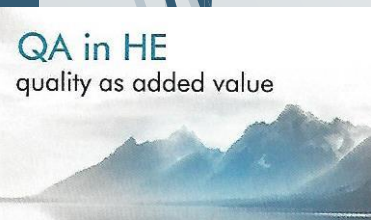
**EURASHE Community of QA**

**23 January 2019**

**TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina**

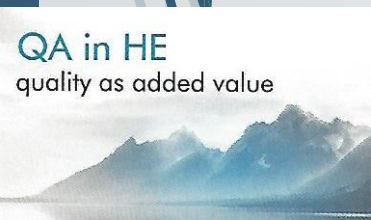
❖ **QAAs' reasons:**

- The absence of the legal competence to make international decisions or decisions in another (EHEA) country;
- **Prepare yourself with first taking part as observer or partner in a procedure of the European Approach for QA of JPs;**
- **Communicate with and learn of experienced QAAs bilaterally and via network events (ECA, ENQA, EQAR, EQAF, PLA, TAM, etc);**
- The inexperience and lack of knowledge (to coordinate) an international EQA;
- **Build up your experience;**
- **Do not immediately start as coordinator;**
- The burden of communicating with (all) national authorities involved;
- **Go for it and divide the work among the HEIs and QAAs involved;**



❖ **QAAs' reasons** (cont):

- The lack of international appropriate experts;
- **Build up a pool of international experts already on national level;**
- **Ask for international experts to other QAAs (involved and/or experienced);**
- The (multi-)language problem;
- **Use (an) international language(s) in your international contacts and network (events) even outside the European approach for JPs;**
- **Use the international language that is used in the JPs;**
- EQAR registration
- **Go well-prepared for EQAR registration;**







**The European approach for QA of JPs:  
best practices & recommendations**

**other organisational  
recommendations**

**Lucien Bollaert**

**International independent QA expert**

**Visiting professor**

**Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts**

**EURASHE Community of QA**

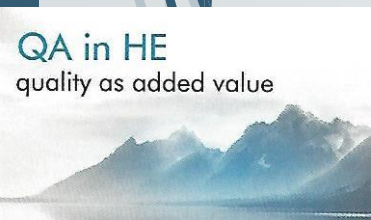
**23 January 2019**

**TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina**



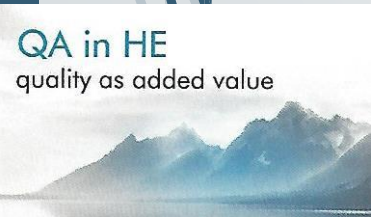
## ❖ Other organisational reasons:

- The price of the intense preparation, of the actual site visit and of the QAA(s);
- **Although it can still be costly, numerous separated national EQA processes will cost more and are only nationally recognised;**
- **Budget the full price (internal and external costs) realistically;**
- **Divide the price justly among the HEIs and each involved organisation;**
- The intense communication and collaboration (with possible unknown partners as a non-national QAA);
- **You will learn a lot (to even become better yourself);**
- **The (best) cooperation partner(s) can become a strategic one for benchmarking and other international activities (e.g. research, critical friends for IQA, Erasmus+ activities, other student and staff mobility, enrolment of international students, etc.)**



## ❖ **Other organisational reasons** (cont):

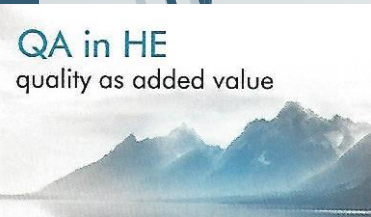
- The differences in timing with the (national and/or internal) IQA cycles;
- **Communicate/negotiate with the cooperating HEIs and national authorities (a shorter cycle is mostly accepted, a longer can be exceptionally accepted for international reasons)**
- Lack of trust and commitment (of one or some cooperating HEIs and/or QAAs and/or national authorities)
- **Be sure to build a good and really jointly JP from the start by stipulating all/most items of commitment in the cooperating agreement;**
- Lack of (inter)national funding of the JP;
- **Invest in international activities in your own budget as a consequence of your internationalisation policy;**
- **There are more funding schemes than Erasmus+ (national, ImpEA...)**
- **While funding can help to start, it will always be temporary and it requires even more administrative work;**



❖ **Other organisational reasons (cont):**

- The differences in timing with the (national and/or internal) IQA cycles;
- Communication/negotiate with existing HEIs and national authorities (different cycles) - this can be exceptionally difficult;
- Lack of trust and experience among HEIs
- Be sure to stipulate in the contract to start by operating
- Lack of resources
- Invest in a budget as a compensation policy;
- There are more funding schemes than Erasmus+ (national, ImpEA...)
- While funding can help to start, it will always be temporary and it requires even more administrative work;

**GO FOR IT!  
IT'S WORTH  
TRYING &  
DOING**  
for all involved!



# The European approach for QA of JPs: best practices & recommendations

# Further information

**Lucien Bollaert**

International independent QA expert

Visiting professor

Member of boards of AEQES, QQI, EQ-Arts

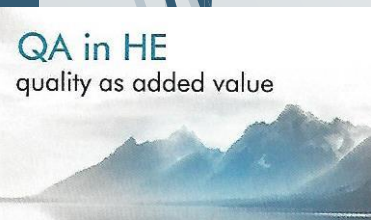
EURASHE Community of QA

23 January 2019

TAM seminar | Kosovo | Pristina

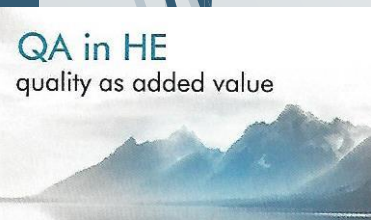
➤ **Main study material:**

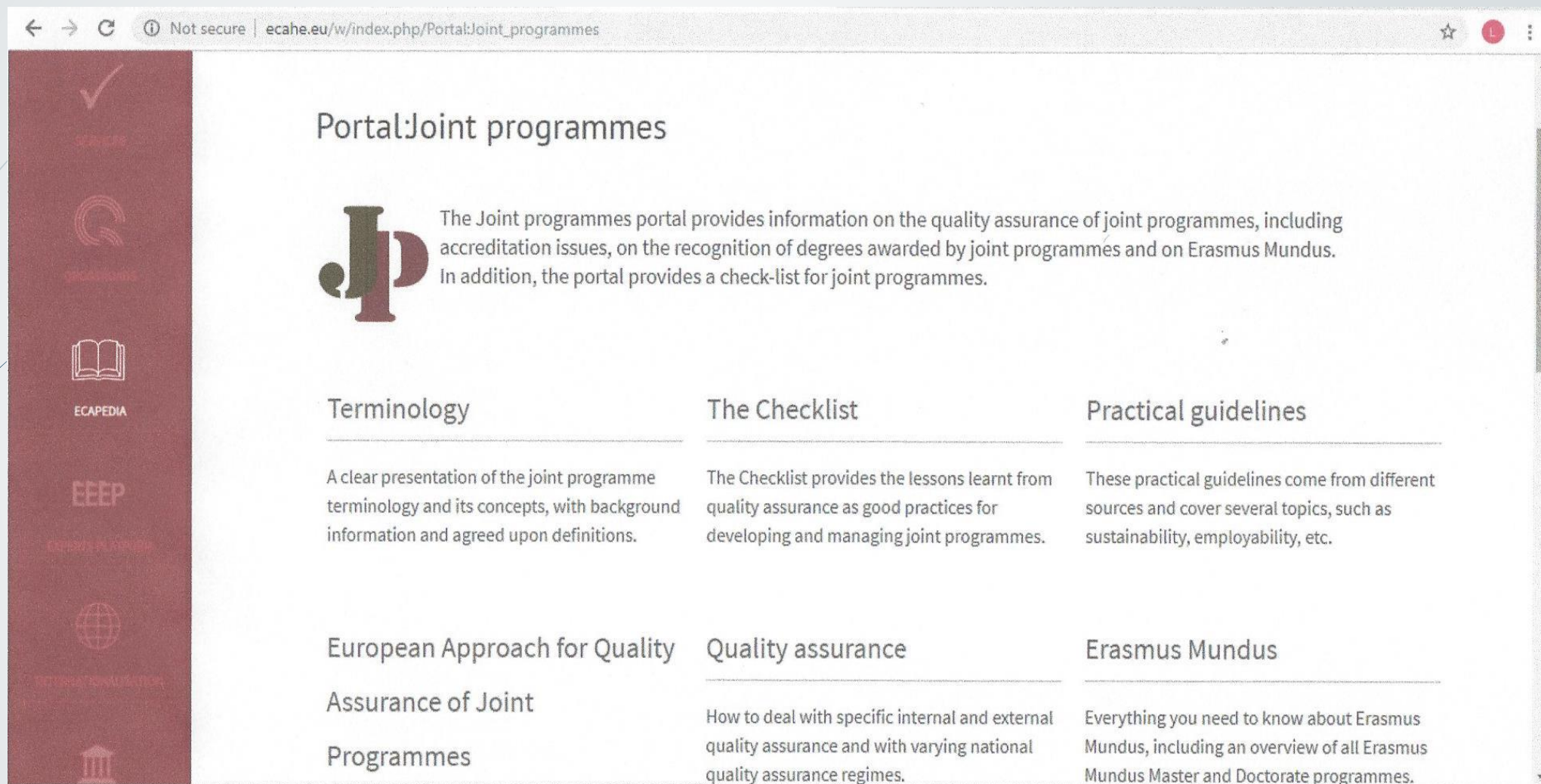
- "European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes" approved by EHEA Minsters, October 2014  
[http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/2015\\_Yerevan/73/1/European\\_Approach\\_QA\\_of\\_Joint\\_Programmes\\_613731.pdf](http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/2015_Yerevan/73/1/European_Approach_QA_of_Joint_Programmes_613731.pdf)
- "Background Report on the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes", [http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/2015\\_Yerevan/72/9/European\\_Approach\\_QA\\_of\\_Joint\\_Programmes\\_Background\\_Report\\_613729.pdf](http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/2015_Yerevan/72/9/European_Approach_QA_of_Joint_Programmes_Background_Report_613729.pdf)
- "The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes – Outcomes Peer Learning Activity" The Hague, October 2017  
[https://www.nationaleonderwijsgids.nl/system/ckeditor\\_assets/attachments/853/pla\\_report\\_31\\_10\\_2017.pdf](https://www.nationaleonderwijsgids.nl/system/ckeditor_assets/attachments/853/pla_report_31_10_2017.pdf)
- "Implementing the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes" – ImpEA project report", July 2018  
[http://impea.online/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/IO2\\_report\\_formatted.pdf](http://impea.online/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/IO2_report_formatted.pdf)
- "The European Higher Education Area in 2018: Bologna Process Implementation Report ", EACEA Eurydice, May 2018  
⇒ Chapter 4 "Quality Assurance and Recognition", page 127-152  
[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/european-higher-education-area-2018-bologna-process-implementation-report\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/european-higher-education-area-2018-bologna-process-implementation-report_en)



➤ **Additional background material:**

- "Yerevan Communiqué" EHEA Ministerial Conference, Yerevan, 2015  
<http://bologna-yerevan2015.ehea.info/files/YerevanCommuniqueFinal.pdf>
- "ESG 2015 – Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" BFUG, 2015  
[http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG\\_2015.pdf](http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG_2015.pdf)
- "EHEA Ministerial Conference, Paris 2018" (incl. "Paris Communiqué", May 2018)  
<http://www.ehea2018.paris/>
- "EQAR and the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes: information on national legal frameworks"  
<https://www.eqar.eu/kb/joint-programmes/national-implementation/>
- "Manual for the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes" by VLUHR  
<http://www.vluhr.be/europeanapproach>

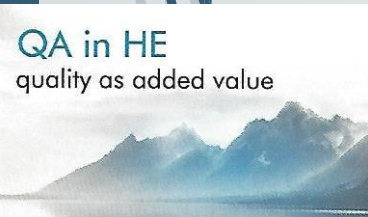




Portal:Joint programmes

The Joint programmes portal provides information on the quality assurance of joint programmes, including accreditation issues, on the recognition of degrees awarded by joint programmes and on Erasmus Mundus. In addition, the portal provides a check-list for joint programmes.

<h3>Terminology</h3> <p>A clear presentation of the joint programme terminology and its concepts, with background information and agreed upon definitions.</p>	<h3>The Checklist</h3> <p>The Checklist provides the lessons learnt from quality assurance as good practices for developing and managing joint programmes.</p>	<h3>Practical guidelines</h3> <p>These practical guidelines come from different sources and cover several topics, such as sustainability, employability, etc.</p>
<h3>European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes</h3>	<h3>Quality assurance</h3> <p>How to deal with specific internal and external quality assurance and with varying national quality assurance regimes.</p>	<h3>Erasmus Mundus</h3> <p>Everything you need to know about Erasmus Mundus, including an overview of all Erasmus Mundus Master and Doctorate programmes.</p>



[www.ecahe/w/index.php/Portal:Joint\\_programmes](http://www.ecahe/w/index.php/Portal:Joint_programmes)





<http://www.eqar.eu/kb/joint-programmes/>

eqar.eu > Knowledge base > Joint programmes

## Knowledge base

- Country information
- ESG
- Official documents
- In-house reports
- Presentations
- External QA activities
- Cross Border Quality Assurance

### Joint programmes

- Background
- Definitions
- Application
- Agreed Standards

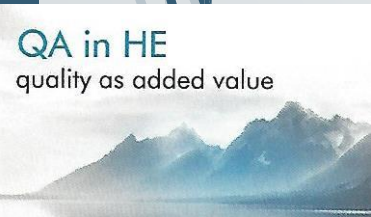
## European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

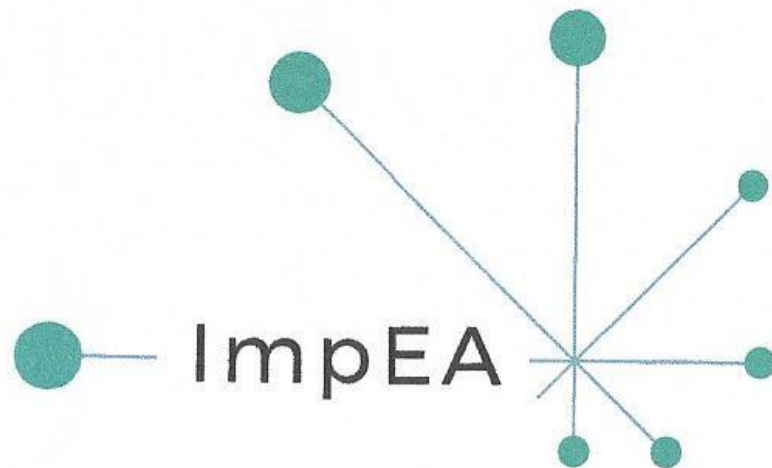
Joint programmes are a hallmark of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). They are set up to enhance the mobility of students and staff, to facilitate mutual learning and cooperation opportunities and to create programmes of excellence. They offer a genuine European learning experience to students. Joint degrees express the "jointness" also in the awarding of the degree.

The [European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#), adopted by European Ministers responsible for higher education, has been developed to ease external quality assurance of these programmes: it defines standards that are based on the agreed tools of the EHEA, without applying additional national criteria. This is expected to facilitate integrated approaches to quality assurance of joint programmes, which genuinely reflect and mirror their joint character.

Further information on the European Approach can be found on the following pages:

- [Background](#)
- [Definitions](#)
- [Application](#)





# Facilitating implementation of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

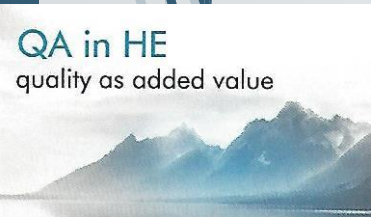


## Project partners

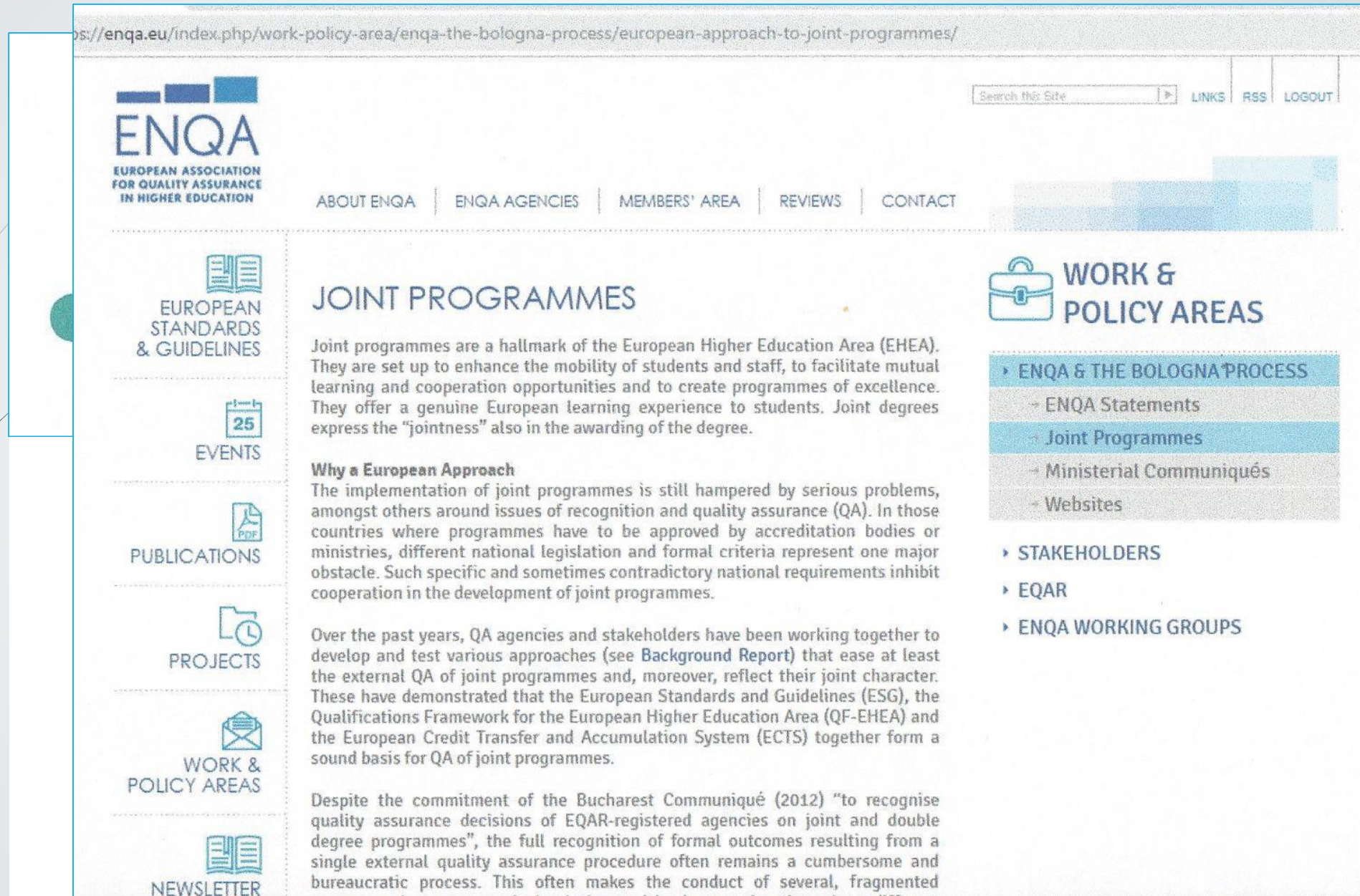


ADAM MICKIEWICZ  
UNIVERSITY  
POZNAŃ

EUSKAL UNIBERTSITATE  
SISTEMAREN KALITATE  
AGENTZIA  
AGENCIA DE  
CALIDAD DEL SISTEMA  
UNIVERSITARIO VASCO



https://enqa.eu/index.php/work-policy-area/enqa-the-bologna-process/european-approach-to-joint-programmes/



The screenshot shows the ENQA website with the following elements:

- ENQA Logo:** EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
- Navigation:** ABOUT ENQA | ENQA AGENCIES | MEMBERS' AREA | REVIEWS | CONTACT
- Left Sidebar:**
  - EUROPEAN STANDARDS & GUIDELINES
  - EVENTS (25)
  - PUBLICATIONS
  - PROJECTS
  - WORK & POLICY AREAS
  - NEWSLETTER
- Main Content:**

## JOINT PROGRAMMES

Joint programmes are a hallmark of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). They are set up to enhance the mobility of students and staff, to facilitate mutual learning and cooperation opportunities and to create programmes of excellence. They offer a genuine European learning experience to students. Joint degrees express the "jointness" also in the awarding of the degree.

**Why a European Approach**  
The implementation of joint programmes is still hampered by serious problems, amongst others around issues of recognition and quality assurance (QA). In those countries where programmes have to be approved by accreditation bodies or ministries, different national legislation and formal criteria represent one major obstacle. Such specific and sometimes contradictory national requirements inhibit cooperation in the development of joint programmes.

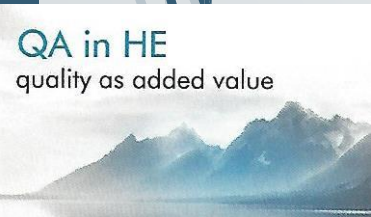
Over the past years, QA agencies and stakeholders have been working together to develop and test various approaches (see [Background Report](#)) that ease at least the external QA of joint programmes and, moreover, reflect their joint character. These have demonstrated that the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA) and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) together form a sound basis for QA of joint programmes.

Despite the commitment of the Bucharest Communiqué (2012) "to recognise quality assurance decisions of EQAR-registered agencies on joint and double degree programmes", the full recognition of formal outcomes resulting from a single external quality assurance procedure often remains a cumbersome and bureaucratic process. This often makes the conduct of several, fragmented
- Right Sidebar:**

### WORK & POLICY AREAS

  - ▶ ENQA & THE BOLOGNA PROCESS
    - ENQA Statements
    - Joint Programmes
    - Ministerial Communiqués
    - Websites
  - ▶ STAKEHOLDERS
  - ▶ EQAR
  - ▶ ENQA WORKING GROUPS

imes



# Go for it! & Thanks



Q & A

