

Accreditation of Joint Programmes

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(NVAO)

Content

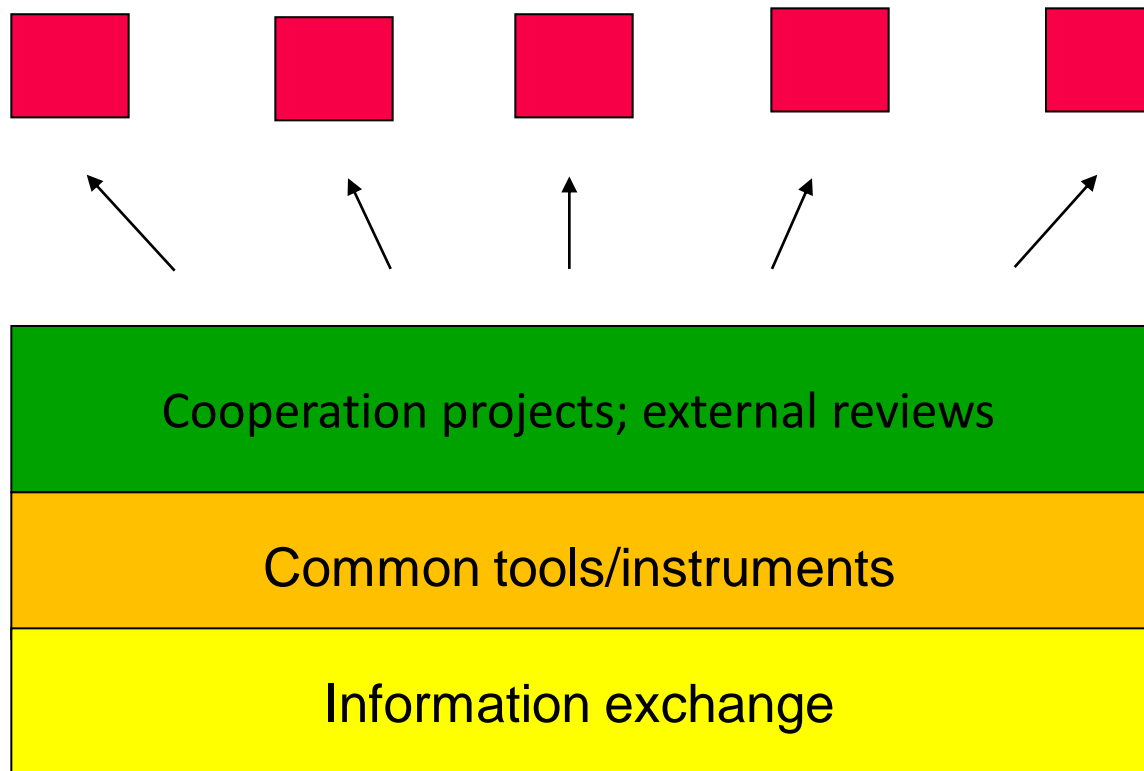
- ECA
- Terminology
- TEAM II
- Accreditation of joint programmes- new ways?

ECA

- European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA)
- Established in November 2003 (*renewed June 2008*)
- Consortium of national agencies
- 16 member organisations from 11 European countries: AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, NL, NO, PL, SL
- Aims:
 - mutual recognition of accreditation decisions
 - mutual learning and disseminating best practices
 - providing transparent information on quality and supporting internationalisation of institutions and students.

ECA – Trust building process





Bilateral Mutual Recognition Agreements

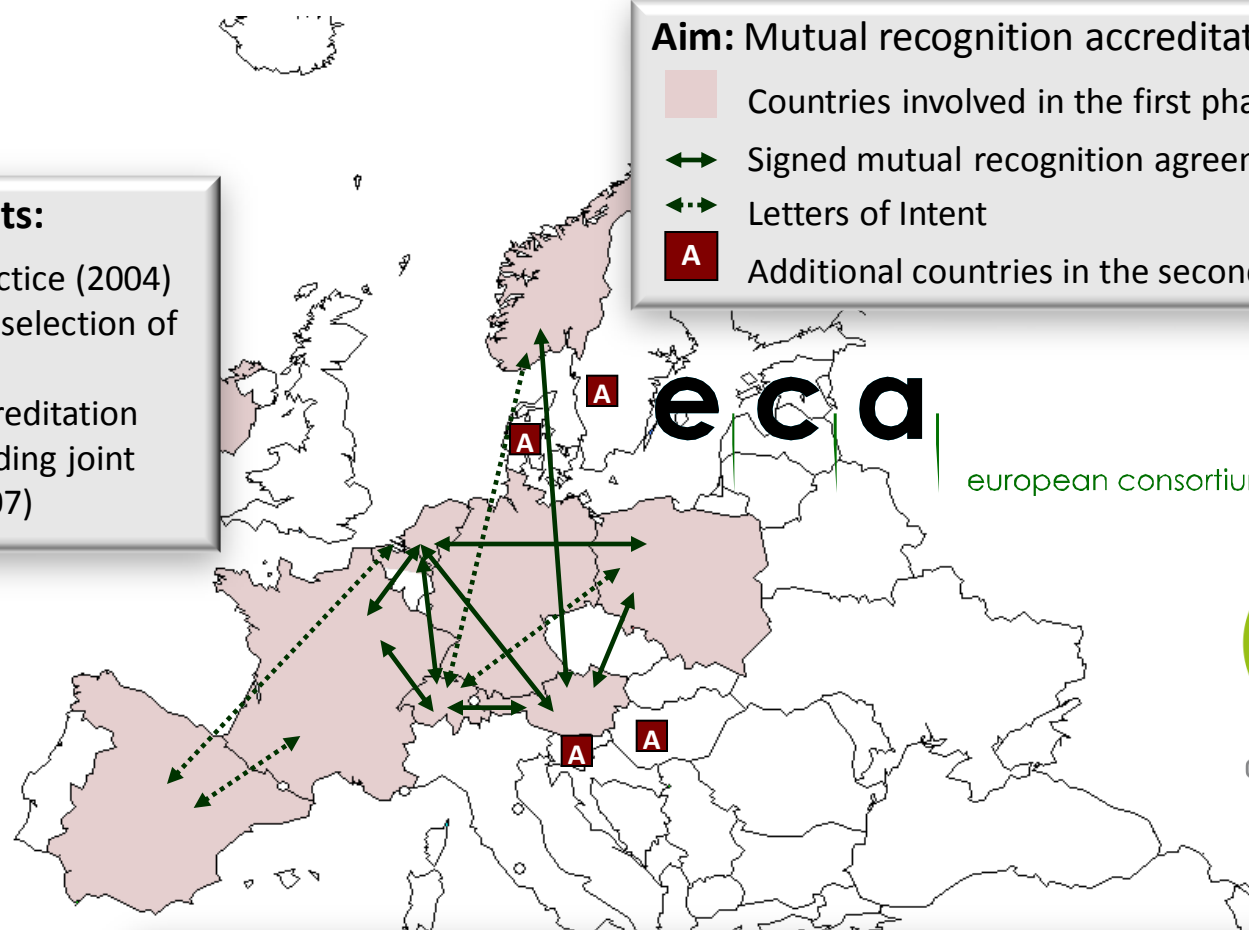


Agreed documents:

- Code of good practice (2004)
- Principles for the selection of experts (2005)
- Principles for accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes (2007)

Aim: Mutual recognition accreditation decisions

-  Countries involved in the first phase (2003-2007)
-  Signed mutual recognition agreements
-  Letters of Intent
-  Additional countries in the second phase (°2008)



e c a | european consortium for accreditation



Joint declaration re. the automatic recognition of qualifications

Aim: accept degrees from accredited institutions/programmes automatically

Preconditions:

1. Mutual recognition of accreditation decisions
2. Recognition compatibility NQFs (~Bologna Process)
3. Transparent information tool

Joint programme - definition

A programme offered jointly by different higher education institutions irrespective of the degree (joint, multiple and double) awarded.

(European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education,
*Principles for accreditation procedures regarding joint
programmes*, 2007, p. 1)

Joint degree- definition

A degree awarded by the higher education institutions that offer a joint programme, attesting the successful completion of this joint programme. It is a single document awarded by the higher education institutions responsible for the programme in question. The document is signed by the competent authorities (rectors, vice-chancellors, ...) and replaces the individual (institutional/national) degrees.

Adapted from:

ENQA, Methodological report of the Transnational European Evaluation Project II, 2006, p. 10

TEAM II

Project of ECA (2008-2010)

Aims:

- **To develop a European methodology for accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes**
- To explore the cross- border recognition of qualifications awarded by joint programmes
- The extension of Qcrossroads

Accreditation of joint programmes

Current situation

- ▶ **Quality assurance and/or accreditation**
 - National competencies ⇒ Multiple QA/accreditation procedures
- ▶ **Recognition of the qualification/diploma**
 - National competencies ⇒ Not necessarily recognised in all countries concerned

Situation in the future?

- ▶ **Single accreditation procedure**



- ▶ **Accreditation decision**

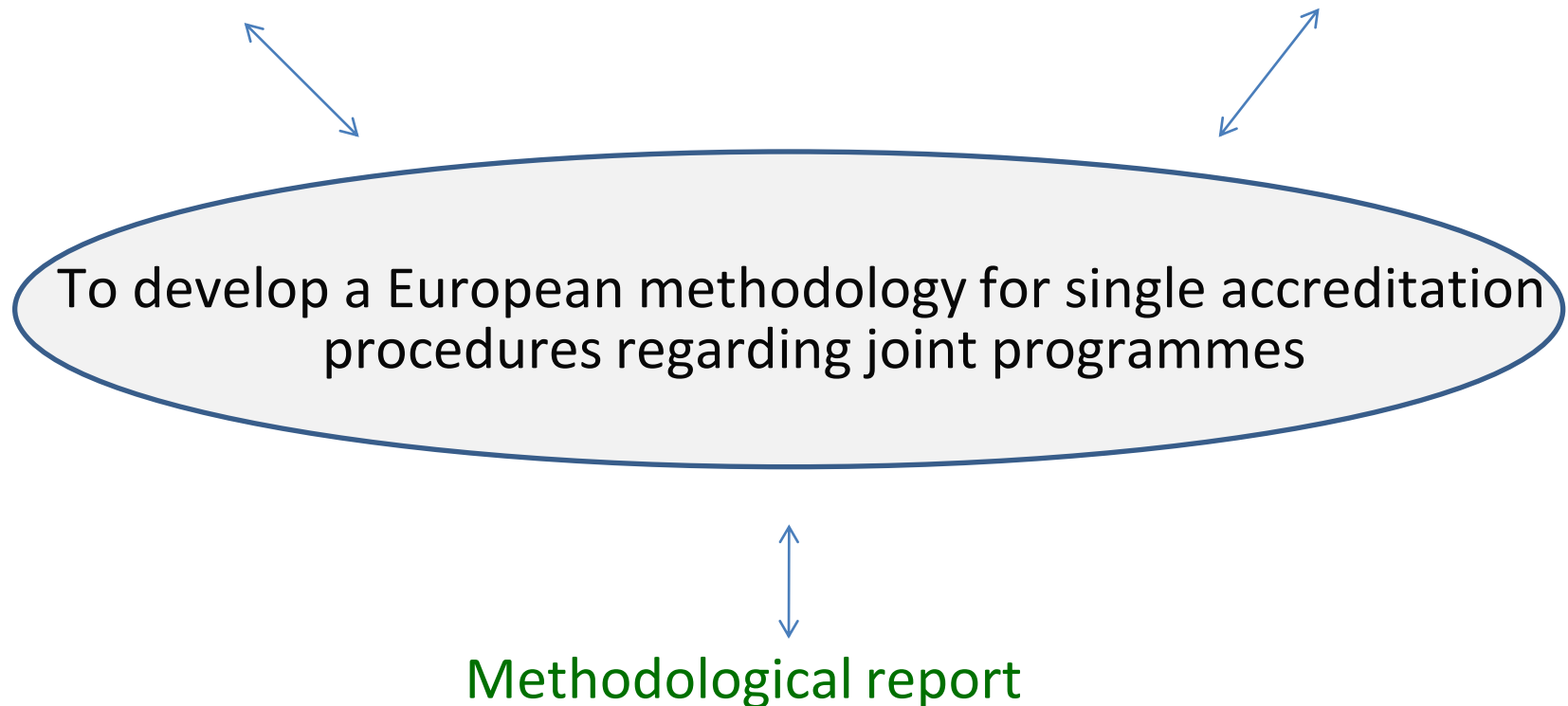


- ▶ **Accreditation in all national systems**

TEAM II: single accreditation procedures

5 pilot procedures

Questionnaires



TEAM II methodology for single accreditation JPs (1)

- ECA Principles for accreditation of JPs; totality of joint programme (all learning outcomes)
- One coordinating agency; others were invited to participate (comparison, experts) or observe
- Comparison of accreditation frameworks
 - Using framework of coordinating agency
 - Additions from frameworks of other agencies involved in JP, e.g. specific national legal requirements

TEAM II methodology for single accreditation JPs (2)

- Selection of experts (cf. ECA Principles)
 - Rules of coordinating agency but special requirements other agencies
- Self-evaluation by consortium of HEIs
 - Information on totality of joint programme
- 1 site visit with representatives of all partners
- 1 report, multiple (but same!) decisions

The pilot projects

- EM Master Journalism and Media within Globalisation (EMMA)
- Bachelor European Teacher Education for Primary Schools (ETEPS)
- Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development (CoDe)
- Joint European Master in International Humanitarian Action (NOHA)
- Research Master Geosciences of Basins and Lithosphere (BASINS)



Partners in the consortium

The University of Aarhus, Denmark

The Danish school of journalism,
Denmark

University of Amsterdam, The
Netherlands

University of Hamburg, Germany

Swansea University, Wales

City University London, England

QA agencies involved:

**Zentrale Evaluations- und
Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover**
(ZEvA), The Accreditation
Organisation of the Netherlands and
Flanders (NVAO)



Bachelor European Teacher Education for Primary Schools (ETEPS)

Partners in the consortium

**University College Zealand,
Denmark**

Stenden University, The
Netherlands

Linneus University, Sweden

Buskerud University College,
Norway

QA agencies involved:

**The Accreditation Organisation of
the Netherlands and Flanders
(NVAO), Swedish National Agency
for Higher Education (HSV)**



Partners in the consortium

Trento University, Italy

Corvinus University of Budapest,
Hungary

The University of Ljubljana,
Slovenia

The University of Regensburg,
Germany

QA agencies involved:

The Hungarian Accreditation

**Committee (HAC), The German
Accreditation Council (GAC),
Slovenian Quality Assurance
Agency for Higher Education
(SQAA)**



Partners in the consortium :

Deusto University, Spain

Université Catholique de Louvain ,
Belgium

University of Bochum, Germany

University College Dublin, Ireland

University of Groningen, The
Netherlands

Uppsala University, Sweden

Université de Aix-Marseille III Paul
Cézanne, France

QA agencies involved:

The National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation

(ANECA), Agentur für
Qualitätssicherung durch
Akkreditierung von Studiengängen
(AQAS), HSV, NVAO



European Master of Science in Geosciences of Basins and Lithosphere

Partners in the consortium

**VU University Amsterdam, the
Netherlands**

University of Bergen, Norway

The University of Rennes 1, France

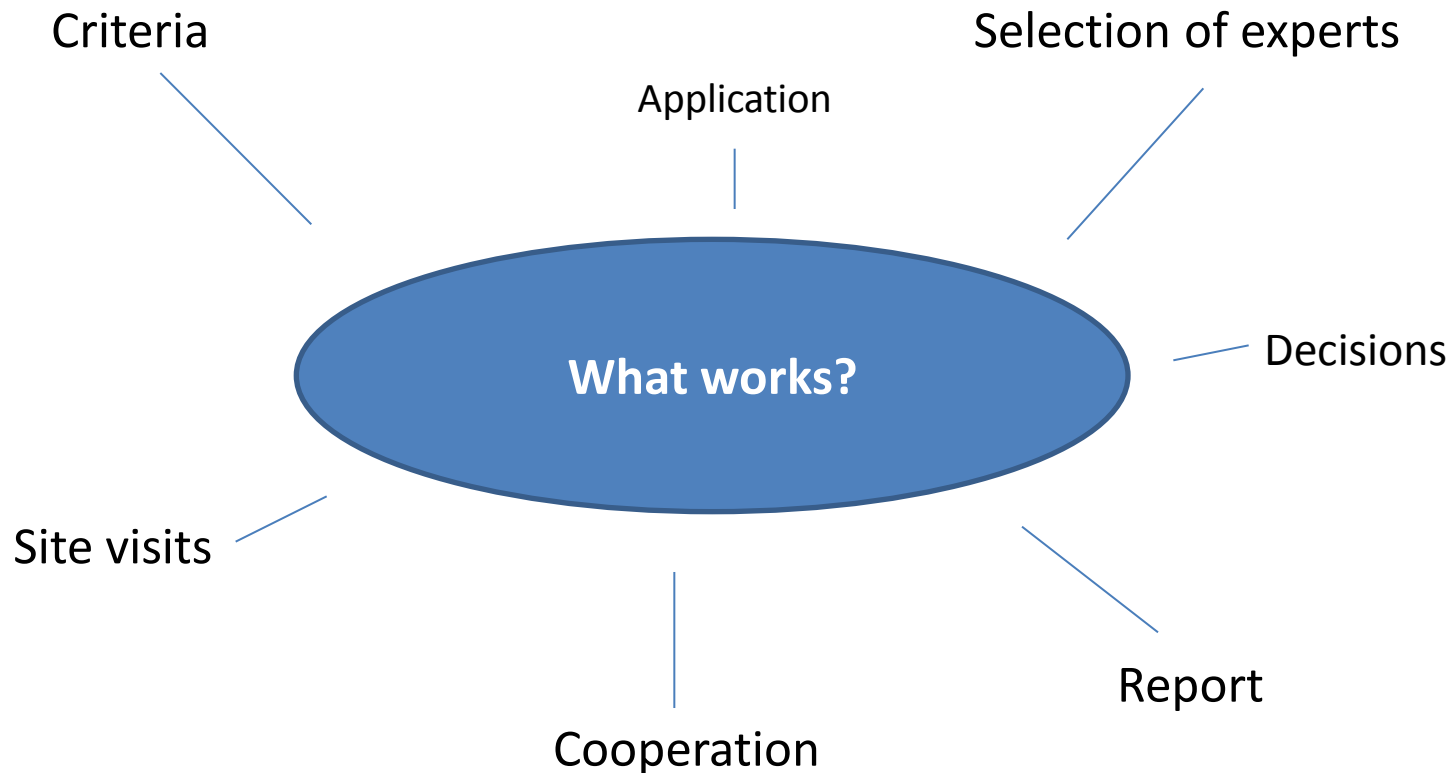
QA agencies involved:

**The Accreditation Organisation of
the Netherlands and Flanders
(NVAO),**

Commision des Titres d'Ingénieurs
(CTI)

The Hungarian Accreditation
Committee (HAC),

5 pilots – 5 outlines



CRITERIA USED

joint criteria

- EMMA – GAC, NVAO
- CoDe – GAC, HAC, SQAA

new criteria

- NOHA- ANECA

ordinary criteria

- BASINS - NVAO
- ETEPS – NVAO

SELECTION OF EXPERTS

experts from
all countries

- ETEPS- student, subject, prof. field (9)
- CoDe- student, subject, prof. field (5)

experts from
some of the
countries

- EMMA- student, subject, prof. field (6)
- BASINS- student, subject, prof. field (8)
- NOHA- student, subject (7)

SITE VISIT

1 site visit

- EMMA – Hamburg
- ETEPS- Leeuwarden
- CoDe – Trento
- BASINS- Amsterdam

2 site visits

- NOHA- Deusto & Louvain la neuf

DECISIONS

joint criteria

- EMMA – GAC, NVAO (2)
- CoDe – GAC, HAC, SQAA (3)

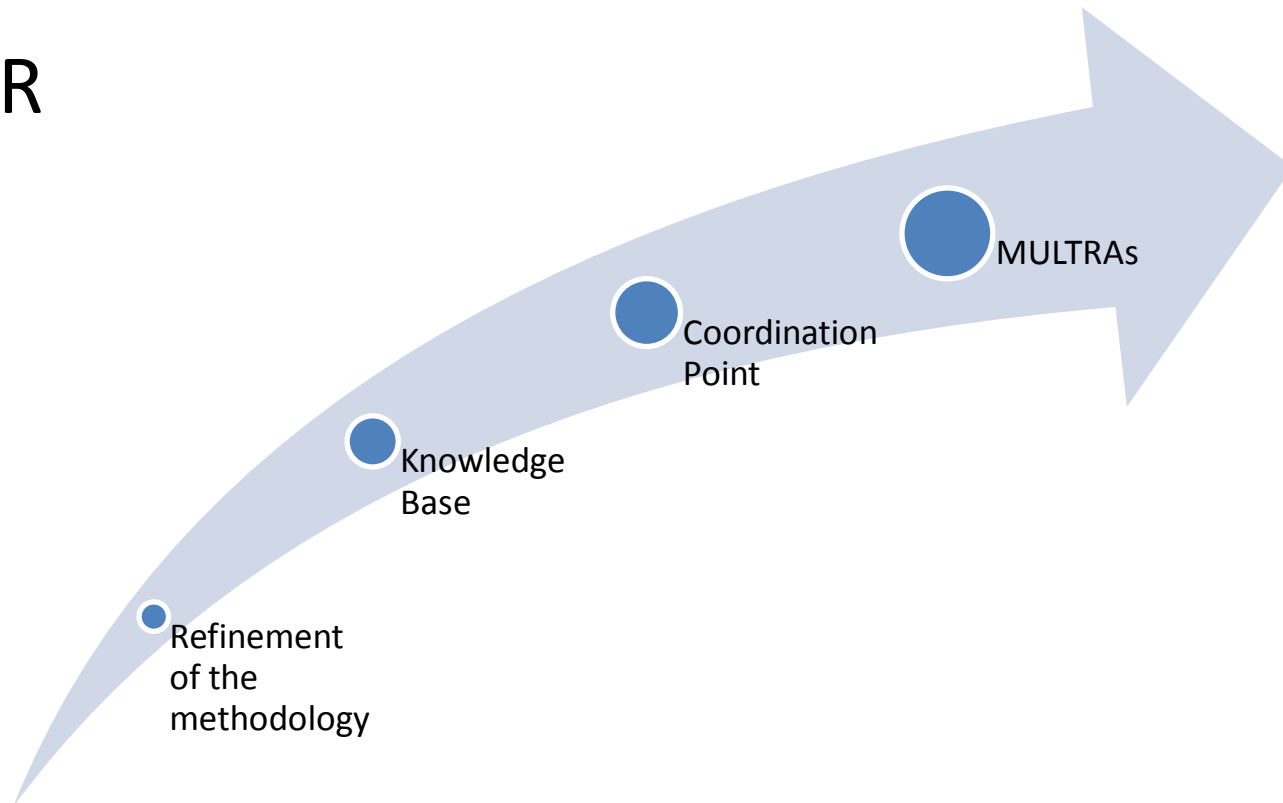
new criteria

- NOHA- ANECA (0)

ordinary criteria

- BASINS – NVAO (1)
- ETEPS – NVAO (1)

JOQAR



- **Refinement of the methodology:** 4 new pilots and 15 partners
- **Coordination point:** feasibility study
- **Knowledge base:** on accreditation of JPs and recognition of JDs, for QA agencies and HEIs
- **MULTRAs:** ECA countries



www.grossroads.eu

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THANK YOU!

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