

JOQAR – Joint Programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded

Duration: 3 years

Summary description:

JOQAR denotes Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded. The overall purpose of the project is to ensure that Erasmus Mundus programmes (and joint programmes in general) are facilitated in two specific areas: accreditation and recognition. The project partnership consequently includes quality assurance/accreditation agencies (QA/A agencies) and recognition bodies (ENIC-NARICs). The external QA and accreditation of joint programmes is a challenge for joint programmes and QA/A agencies as it normally includes multiple national accreditation procedures. The project instead seeks to promote single accreditation procedures through the following specific objectives:

- *The development of a multilateral recognition agreement regarding QA and accreditation results.* This action line will establish observation missions, including comparisons, between QA/A agencies and build up a transferable methodology in order to include other QA/A agencies into the multilateral agreement after the project has ended.

- *The establishment of a European coordination point for external QA and accreditation of joint programmes.* The coordination point gives coordinators of joint programmes the opportunity to consult this specialised information centre when they need to undergo external quality assurance and/or accreditation of their joint programme. The coordination point additionally provides QA/A agencies with assistance and specialised expertise on accreditation of joint programmes.

There are currently a lot of problems with the recognition of the degrees awarded by joint programmes which the project seeks to solve through the following specific objectives:

- *Awareness-raising among higher education institutions and joint programmes about ENIC-NARICs' expectations regarding joint programmes, the design of the degree they award and the content of the diploma supplement.* This should result in published guidelines and good practices for higher education institutions and their joint programmes.

- *The establishment of a common ground among ENIC-NARICs regarding the recognition of degrees awarded by joint programmes* should result in agreed principles.

- *Transparent information provision regarding Erasmus Mundus programmes* by including these programmes in the Qrossroads database (<http://www.qrossroads.eu/>).

The target groups who will benefit from improved accreditation and recognition are joint programmes, ENIC-NARICs, students and QA/A agencies. JOQAR will engage stakeholders in a structured way through a stakeholders group. The project will reach out to the Erasmus Mundus programmes and establish direct ties with the consortia. The results will be disseminated through the networks of the partners and by a variety of means, including a dissemination conference, a knowledge base, publications, a project website, and workshops. The European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) will make sure that the results of the project, such as the coordination point, knowledge base and the methodology applied, are maintained after the end of the project to the benefit of joint programmes provided in Europe and in third countries.

Partners:

Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders, The Netherlands (Co-ordinator)

Austrian Accreditation Council, Austria

Danish Agency for International Education, Denmark

Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes, Germany

Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation, Germany

Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education NUFFIC, The Netherlands

Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland

Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Slovenia

National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation, Spain

Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, Spain

Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of the Swiss Universities, Switzerland

UK NARIC, ECCTIS Ltd., United Kingdom

Australian Universities Quality Agency, Australia

National Accreditation Council (CNA), Colombia

National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India

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